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CJI can act upon probe results: SC

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Alleged gold smuggling case in Karnataka raises serious concerns

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NEARBY

Yatnal's ouster: BJP rebels decide to appeal

BENGALURU
Rebel leaders in the State BJP unit, who have identified themselves with Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, met here on Friday and decided to appeal to the party high command to roll back the senior MLA's expulsion. » Page 12

Flowers, fruits get expensive ahead of Ugadi

BENGALURU
As the city is decked up for Ugadi, the prices of fruits and flowers have shot up. Vendors attribute the increase to a combination of reduced supply and heightened demand across Karnataka. » Page 6

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 9

Free speech is an integral part of healthy society: SC

Law enforcement must employ 'standards of reasonable minds' before inciting criminal action against freedom of expression, says top court; it quashes hate speech case against Congress MP

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said the fundamental right to free speech through poetry, theatre, stand-up comedy, and satire must be cherished, even as it quashed a criminal case accusing Congress MP Imran Pratapgadhi of inciting discord through his poem on "suffering injustice with love".

The Gujarat Police had filed a case against Imran Pratapgadhi, accusing the Congress MP of inciting discord through his poem. ANI

The judgment was based on an appeal filed by Mr. Pratapgadhi against the registration of a criminal case by the Gujarat Police under Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. "Seventy-five years into our Republic, we cannot be seen to be so shaky on our fundamentals that a mere recital of a poem, or for that matter, any form of art or entertainment, such as stand-up comedy, can be alleged to lead to animosity or hatred amongst different communities. Subscribing to such a view would stifle all legitimate expressions of view in the public domain, which is so fundamental to a free society," a Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan wrote in its verdict.

Reasonable restrictions

Justice Bhuyan explained to Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta that the "reasonable restrictions" on free speech must remain reasonable. "Restrictions cannot be harmful or oppressive. Restrictions cannot overshadow the fundamental right to free speech," Justice Bhuyan said pointedly.

The top court said free speech was an integral part of a healthy and civilised society. A person's views cannot be silenced merely because the majority does not like the sound of them. The law enforcement authorities and courts must employ the standards of reasonable, strong-minded, firm, and courageous minds, and not weak and vacillating ones who scent danger in every hostile point of view, before initiating criminal action against freedom of expression.

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Madras HC grants Kamra protection from arrest

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Friday granted interim protection from arrest to stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra, 36, in a case booked against him by the Khar Police in Mumbai for having allegedly made slanderous comments against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in his comedy show titled "Naya Bharat".

Justice Sunder Mohan ordered notice, returnable by April 7, to the Khar Police on the comedian's main plea for grant of inter-State anticipatory bail until he could approach the Bombay High Court for obtaining regular bail. In the meantime, the judge granted interim anticipatory bail so that the comedian does not get arrested.

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X Corp. is trying to 'mislead' court with false claims: Centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Union government has told the Karnataka High Court that X Corp. is "attempting to mislead the court" about the law used to direct social media platforms to block access to harmful content.

X is "falsely alleging that authorities are passing information blocking orders" under Section 79(3)(d) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 in a bid to circumvent a Supreme Court judgment that only allows such orders to be issued under Section 69A of the same law, the Centre said in a statement filed before the court, opposing X's petition. The Centre insisted that Section 79 is a suitably tailored regime, in line with global practices, which seeks to balance the competing interests of the stakeholders involved, while keeping legitimate state interests in mind.

The Centre says X is trying to wrongly portray the SAHYOG portal as a 'censorship' tool. AFP

X Corp. is trying to wrongly portray the SAHYOG portal as a "censorship" tool, the Centre said, pointing out that 38 top IT intermediaries – including Google, Microsoft, and Amazon – have already come aboard the portal for routing lawfully issued notices for removal of unlawful content.

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No evidence that DGP arranged police protocol assistance to Ranya, finds committee report

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, submitted a 200-plus-page inquiry report about the alleged misuse of police protocol and the role of Director-General of Police K. Ramachandra Rao, if any, in the Ranya Rao case, to the State government on Thursday.

Sources in the State government said that the report doesn't conclude that Mr. Rao was involved in the case in any way.

The report only indicated that, *prima facie*, Mr. Rao knew that police protocol assistance was being given to Ranya Rao, his stepdaughter, and that she had used his official car to get home from the airport in multiple instances.

K. Ramachandra Rao

State govt. sent Ramachandra Rao on mandatory leave after his stepdaughter's arrest in a gold smuggling case

While there are no records to show that Mr. Rao objected to this, despite this being violative of norms, there is neither evidence to conclude that he arranged for it, nor that he knew of the alleged gold smuggling, the report says, the sources said.

After Ranya Rao was caught by the Directorate of Revenue (DRI) while allegedly trying to smuggle 14.2 kg of gold at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) even as she was being escorted by two police personnel on March 3, the State government had sent Mr. Rao on mandatory leave and formed the Gaurav Gupta committee on March 10.

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Junta seeks aid as earthquake kills 144 in Myanmar

Agence France-Presse
NAYPYIDAW

A huge earthquake killed nearly 150 people and injured hundreds across Myanmar and Thailand on Friday, with dozens trapped in collapsed buildings and the death toll expected to rise.

The 7.7-magnitude tremor hit near Mandalay, second-largest city in Myanmar, and was followed minutes later by a 6.4-magnitude aftershock.

Chief of Myanmar's isolated junta Min Aung Hlaing invited "any country, any organisation" to help with relief, saying at least 144 people had been killed, and 730 injured following the earthquake. A state of emergency was declared across the six worst-affected regions in the country.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 20

Rubble remains: Rescue workers near an under-construction building that collapsed after the tremor hit Bangkok, Thailand, on Friday. AP

Coffee Board launches GI-tagged single-serve drip bags

'We are planning to sell GI-tagged coffee online to make it accessible to consumers across the country'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Coffee Board on Friday introduced premium GI-tagged single-serve coffee drip bags to strengthen the domestic consumption of pure coffee in the country.

These GI-tagged coffee drip bags are designed for simplicity and effortless brewing, and require just hot water, and no equipment, said Coffee Board Secretary and CEO K.G. Jagadeesha at a media conference. "Only boiled water and a mug are required to brew a quality cup of pure black coffee," he said. Each drip coffee pouch contains five GI-tagged Arabica coffee varieties: Coorg Arabica, Chikmagalur Arabica, Bababudangiri Arabica, Araku Valley Arabica and the Monsooned Malabar Arabica coffee.

The GI-tagged coffee drip bags are designed for simplicity and effortless brewing, says Coffee Board. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

According to Mr. Jagadeesha, the drip bags being marketed under the India Coffee brand will be made available across all e-commerce platforms. "We are planning to sell coffee online to popularise and promote GI-tagged coffee and make them accessible to consumers across the country," he added.

Coffee Board also simultaneously launched Indian speciality coffee like GI-tagged Monsooned Malabar Arabica Coffee and Mysore Nuggets Extra Bold Arabica Coffee. Monsoon Malabar, he said, is the only monsoon coffee (where harvested coffee seeds are exposed to the monsoon rain and winds) in the world, Mr. Jagasheesha added.

Coffee culture

Coffee Board chairman M.J. Dinesh said the Board has been taking initiatives such as Kaapi Shastra, Barista Skills training, and participation in domestic exhibitions to promote coffee culture and thereby drive pure coffee consumption.

"Coffee farmers and entrepreneurs are getting training from the conception stage to the product stage. Even private coffee players can benefit from this training and start focusing on promoting GI-tagged pure coffees of India," said Coffee Board officials.

Under Atal Innovation Vision, the Coffee Board has been offering training to various coffee farmers and coffee entrepreneurs. Some 68 coffee start-ups, including over 20 start-ups in Karnataka, have come up under this scheme. As per CRISIL estimates, India's current coffee consumption is estimated at 95,000 tonnes.

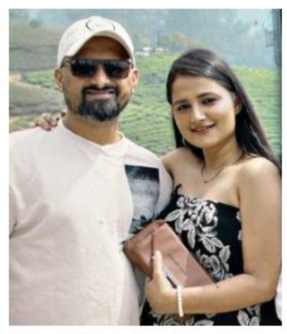
Husband of city murder victim tries to end life, held in Satara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rakesh Rajendra Khedekar, 36 – who allegedly killed his wife, Gauri Anil Sambekar, stuffed her body in a suitcase, abandoned it at their rented accommodation and fled from the scene to his native Pune, Maharashtra – reportedly attempted to end his life on Thursday night.

He is being treated at a hospital in Satara, Maharashtra, and detained by the Bengaluru City Police. He is said to be out of danger.

Rakesh, a project manager with a multinational company in Bengaluru, had taken a house on rent at Doddakammanahalli a month ago. On Thursday evening, he called the landlord and his in-laws and told them that Gauri, 32, had ended her life and cut the call, following which the police were alerted. They found the body with stab wounds stuffed in a suitcase in the bathroom of the flat around 6 p.m.



Rakesh Khedekar allegedly killed his wife Gauri, stuffed her body in a suitcase and abandoned it in their flat. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Soon, the police tracked his mobile to Mumbai and a team left for the city immediately. Meanwhile, the suspect moved to Pune. The local police, who were alerted, finally tracked him down to Shirwal Police Station limits in Satara. He was found unconscious, and was shifted to a nearby hospital.

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The golden-era superstars IPL franchises would have broken the bank for

A West Indian swashbuckler, an Indian braveheart and a Pakistani dazzler would surely have caused pandemonium in the auction room. Team owners would have been desperate not to miss out on their match-winning ability and magnetic charisma. Who else would have had the paddles bobbing up and down? Presenting a midsummer night's dream of an alternative cricketing timeline

GETTY IMAGES

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

In its 18th summer, the Indian Premier League is just tiding past adolescent churn. Its roots are deep, the accrued commercial heft is at an all-time high, and its monetary numbers find space in business dailies. And just like mangoes, the IPL is inextricably linked to Indian summers.

Yet, that opening fixture, pitting host Royal Challengers Bangalore against Kolkata Knight Riders on an April night at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in 2008, still remains fresh and also serves as an eternal template. This was Brendon McCullum doing Bazball even before the term was invented.

Shot of adrenaline

His 73-ball 158 not out was the adrenaline shot that a league in its infancy needed. Thanks to him, KKR pocketed that night and mortified Bangaloreans spilled a cold frothy liquid into tall glasses. A few old timers recalled the Kerry Packer days in Australia and how those World Series games eventually changed the face of cricket.

The IPL was seen as the latest cricketing product that could take the game towards a commercial space that was never ever imagined. The money on offer was of a kind that popped eyeballs. A dazed Adam Gilchrist said: "There was a little element of feeling like a cow. But it is interesting and unique." It was his reaction at the time to the IPL player auction, which has now become an annual fixture.

If McCullum and the rest pointed out a frenetic path, there were also many who wistfully remembered stars of the past. Buccaneering men who could seemingly part the seas, laugh at the impossible, wink at danger, hammer sixes, knock out stumps and pluck staggering catches.

This was nostalgia, its searing footnotes keeping the heart racing. For the cricket-tragic, there was always this lingering thought: what if Viv Richards had played the IPL? Retrospective history with a twist, in a good way, offers hope and initiates a wistful sigh.

Kapil, in his element, was a glorious sight. The fact that the IPL is largely played on Indian surfaces, something he knows intimately, would have made him an irresistible option

But what is life without a midsummer night's dream? And if in some way, we could look into a crystal ball and gaze backwards instead of figuring out what lies ahead, well the IPL's monetary mathematics could well do multiple somersaults.

In 2008, cricket writers were still grappling with terms like 'breaking the bank'. These were words that naturally came to their business colleagues filing reports on Sensex trends that oscillated between the bullish and the bearish! Rishabh Pant, who went for ₹27 crore to Lucknow Super Giants in the auction last year, holds the highest-bid record in the IPL.

But for a second think about what the mention of Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards at the auction table would have done.

Muscular swagger

Readers of a certain vintage will instantaneously recall his stride towards the batting crease. A muscular saunter, a maroon cap tilted sideways, a mouth making mincemeat of chewing gum and all that swagger before the West Indian genius, the greatest batter cricket has seen this side of Don Bradman, took strike.

Richards' aggregate numbers are not in the Sachin Tendulkar range, that lone Mount Everest from Mumbai, and yet, Richards is Richards. To hold that awe even now, despite having batted alongside the likes of Clive Lloyd, Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes, is not an easy task.

Great players always hint at scripting miracles. They believe. And often they do. A modern equivalent could be M.S. Dhoni. At his peak, he would take a limited-overs game to the final over, almost telling the hapless bowler that now it was between the two of them. And, in true cowboy style, hammer those massive sixes and walk away in triumph.

Imagine what the mention of Viv Richards' name at the auction table would have done. It would have caused franchise owners to sweat despite sitting in air-conditioned halls

Dhoni is a convenient lens being offered to those tuned in to the modern game. Richards was all that and much more. The laziest thing to do with both Richards and Tendulkar would be to dwell entirely on their batting, obviously their strongest arm. But there were other attributes.

Richards was an incredible fielder and his role in helping the West Indies win the inaugural 1975 World Cup is well documented. In the next final in 1979, he hammered a 138 not out that derailed England at Lord's. There is also this little matter of Richards being a handy off-spinner, a skill that Tendulkar possessed too, in addition to his leg-breaks and seam-up bowling.

Now place Richards, who once scored the world's fastest Test century off a mere 56 deliveries against a stunned England in 1986, on the auction table. Whisper about his catches, run-outs and wickets, and in a louder tone mention his name, and then watch pandemonium unfold.

Since we are in this zone of the hypothetical, Richards, be it at the 2008 auction or the latest one, would have caused franchise owners to sweat despite sitting in air-conditioned halls. The ensuing bidding war would have emptied out banks.

Three-dimensional icon

While we ruminate about legends, it is also apt to think about what Kapil Dev would have done to IPL auctioneers. The all-rounder, who incidentally caught Richards in the 1983 World Cup final and eventually helped India win the trophy, is another great with multiple skills.

Sharp medium-pace, agile fielding and a bat that could decimate the strongest of bowlers, Kapil, in his element, was a glorious sight. Plus the fact that the IPL is largely played on Indian surfaces, something he knows intimately, would have meant that most owners would have kept their paddles up for him.

In the 1990 Lord's Test, with India needing 24 to avoid the follow-on, Kapil saw No. 11 Narendra Hirwani at the non-striker's end. He hit spinner Eddie Hemmings for four consecutive sixes and clenched his fists. Look it up on YouTube, it is a miracle that had its surround-sound embellished by the grace and wit of Richie Benaud's commentary!

Talking about all-rounders of the supreme kind, another star who would have broken the bank in an IPL auction is obviously Imran Khan. Students of international affairs and those invested in modern-day politics may laugh at this, given the absence of Pakistani cricketers in the IPL.

But surely we are allowed to dream about a peaceful border and an Imran in his final delivery stride in an IPL game. In his prime, Imran was much quicker than Kapil, swung it both ways, could bat at any position, drop anchor or deliver a sledgehammer, and, above all, led well. Plus he had drop-dead looks and spoke impeccable English. Brands would have chased him. Back in the day, he did model for Cinthol, too.

Just as the latest IPL criss-crosses India, also nurse a thought about the havoc Aravinda de Silva, Ian Botham, Javed Miandad and Wasim Akram, to name a few, could have wreaked on the wallets of India's leading industrialists and actors, invested in the IPL. Feel free to add more names; delicious idea, isn't it?

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	23	11,330	16
2	Alexander Zverev	27	7,945	22
3	Carlos Alcaraz	21	6,910	18
4	Taylor Fritz	27	4,900	22
5	Novak Djokovic	37	3,860	19
6	Casper Ruud	26	3,855	25
7	Jack Draper	23	3,800	20
8	Daniil Medvedev	29	3,680	20
9	Andrey Rublev	27	3,440	28
10	Stefanos Tsitsipas	26	3,405	23
11	Alex de Minaur	26	3,335	23
12	Holger Rune	21	3,270	23
13	Tommy Paul	27	3,030	20
14	Ben Shelton	22	2,980	24
15	Grigor Dimitrov	33	2,745	19

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 139 ▼ 7 spots

Mukund Sasikumar
Rank 444 ▲ 4 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	26	9,606	20
2	Iga Swiatek	23	7,375	17
3	Coco Gauff	21	6,063	21
4	Jessica Pegula	31	5,361	18
5	Madison Keys	30	5,004	19
6	Mirra Andreeva	17	4,710	18
7	Jasmine Paolini	29	4,518	18
8	Elena Rybakina	25	4,448	19
9	Qinwen Zheng	22	3,985	20
10	Emma Navarro	23	3,859	25
11	Paula Badosa	27	3,736	23
12	Daria Kasatkina	27	3,061	24
13	Diana Shnaider	20	2,938	27
14	Karolina Muchova	28	2,854	17
15	Danielle Collins	31	2,853	17

Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina
Rank 300 ▼ 6 spots

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 312 ▼ 11 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Liverpool	29	21	7	1	69	27	42	70
2	Arsenal	29	16	10	3	53	24	29	58
3	N. Forest	29	16	6	7	49	35	14	54
4	Chelsea	29	14	7	8	53	37	16	49
5	Man. City	29	14	6	9	55	40	15	48
6	Newcastle	28	14	5	9	47	38	9	47
7	Brighton	29	12	11	6	48	42	6	47
8	Fulham	29	12	9	8	43	38	5	45
9	Aston Villa	29	12	9	8	41	45	-4	45
10	Bournemouth	29	12	8	9	48	36	12	44
11	Brentford	29	12	5	12	50	45	5	41
12	Crystal Palace	28	10	9	9	36	33	3	39
13	Man. United	29	10	7	12	37	40	-3	37
14	Tottenham	29	10	4	15	55	43	12	34
15	Everton	29	7	13	9	32	36	-4	34
16	West Ham	29	9	7	13	33	49	-16	34
17	Wolves	29	7	5	17	40	58	-18	26
18	Ipswich Town	29	3	8	18	28	62	-34	17
19	Leicester City	29	4	5	20	25	65	-40	17
20	Southampton	29	2	3	24	21	70	-49	9

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	29	19	7	3	65	27	38	64
2	Napoli	29	18	7	4	45	23	22	61
3	Atalanta	29	17	7	5	63	28	35	58
4	Bologna	29	14	11	4	49	34	15	53
5	Juventus	29	13	13	3	45	28	17	52
6	Lazio	29	15	6	8	50	41	9	51
7	Roma	29	14	7	8	44	30	14	49
8	Fiorentina	29	14	6	9	46	30	16	48
9	AC Milan	29	13	8	8	44	33	11	47
10	Udinese	29	11	7	11	35	39	-4	40
11	Torino	29	9	11	9	34	34	0	38
12	Genoa	29	8	11	10	28	37	-9	35
13	Como	29	7	8	14	35	46	-11	29
14	Verona	29	9	2	18	29	58	-29	29
15	Cagliari	29	6	8	15	28	44	-16	26
16	Lecce	29	6	7	16	21	48	-27	25
17	Parma	29	5	10	14	35	49	-14	25
18	Empoli	29	4	10	15	23	46	-23	22
19	Venezia	29	3	11	15	23	42	-19	20
20	Monza	29	2	9	18	24	49	-25	15

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	28	20	3	5	78	27	51	63
2	Real Madrid	28	18	6	4	59	27	32	60
3	Atletico Madrid	28	16	8	4	46	22	24	56
4	Athletic Bilbao	28	14	10	4	46	24	22	52
5	Villarreal	27	12	8	7	49	38	11	44
6	Real Betis	28	12	8	8	38	35	3	44
7	Real Mallorca	28	11	7	10	28	34	-6	40
8	Celta Vigo	28	11	6	11	41	41	0	39
9	Rayo Vallecano	28	9	10	9	31	31	0	37
10	Sevilla	28	9	9	10	32	37	-5	36
11	Getafe	28	9	9	10	25	23	2	36
12	Real Sociedad	28	10	5	13	25	30	-5	35
13	Girona	28	9	7	12	36	41	-5	34
14	Osasuna	28	7	12	9	33	42	-9	33
15	Espanyol	27	7	7	13	26	39	-13	28
16	Valencia	28	6	10	12	31	46	-15	28
17	Alaves	28	6	9	13	32	42	-10	27
18	Leganes	28	6	9	13	26	43	-17	27
19	Las Palmas	28	6	7	15	32	47	-15	25
20	Real Valladolid	28	4	4	20	18	63	-45	16

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	26	19	5	2	75	24	51	62
2	Leverkusen	26	16	8	2	59	33	26	56
3	Mainz	26	13	6	7	44	28	16	45
4	E. Frankfurt	26	13	6	7	54	40	14	45
5	RB Leipzig	26	11	9	6	41	33	8	42
6	SC Freiburg	26	12	6	8	36	38	-2	42
7	M'gladbach	26	12	4	10	43	40	3	40
8	Wolfsburg	26	10	8	8	49	40	9	38
9	FC Augsburg	26	10	8	8	29	35	-6	38
10	Stuttgart	26	10	7	9	47	43	4	37
11	Dortmund	26	10	5	11	45	41	4	35
12	W. Bremen	26	9	6	11	40	53	-13	33
13	Union Berlin	26	7	6	13	23	39	-16	27
14	Hoffenheim	26	6	8	12	32	48	-16	26
15	St Pauli	26	7	4	15	20	30	-10	25
16	Bochum	26	5	5	16	27	52	-25	20
17	Heidenheim	26	5	4	17	31	52	-21	19
18	Holstein Kiel	26	4	5	17	38	64	-26	17

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	895	932
2	Harry Brook	876	898
3	Kane Williamson	867	919
4	Yashasvi Jaiswal	847	854
5	Steve Smith	823	947
6	Temba Bavuma	769	769
7	Kamindu Mendis	761	779
8	Travis Head	748	884
9	Usman Khawaja	739	847
9	Rishabh Pant	739	801

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	908	908
2	Kagiso Rabada	837	902
3	Pat Cummins	824	914
4	Josh Hazlewood	818	864
5	Nathan Lyon	812	812
6	Noman Ali	806	806
7	Marco Jansen	785	803
8	Matt Henry	782	782
9	Prabath Jayasuriya	751	801
10	Ravindra Jadeja	745	899

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Shubman Gill	784	847
2	Babar Azam	770	898
3	Rohit Sharma	756	882
4	Heinrich Klaasen	744	760
5	Virat Kohli	736	909
6	Daryl Mitchell	721	750
7	Harry Tector	713	767
8	Shreyas Iyer	704	710
9	Charith Asalanka	694	694
10	Ibrahim Zadran	676	693

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Maheesh Theekshana	680	686
2	Mitchell Santner	657	657
3	Kuldeep Yadav	650	761
4	Keshav Maharaj	648	741
5	Bernard Scholtz	644	648
6	Matt Henry	642	691
7	Rashid Khan	640	799
8	Gudakesh Motie	632	639
9	Shaheen Afridi	619	696
10	Ravindra Jadeja	616	733

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Travis Head	856	885
2	Abhishek Sharma	829	829
3	Philip Salt	815	881
4	Tilak Varma	804	845
5	Suryakumar Yadav	739	912
6	Jos Buttler	735	756
7	Pathum Nissanka	714	722
8	Babar Azam	688	900
9	Mohammad Rizwan	681	882
10	Kusal Perera	676	786

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Akeal Hosein	707	714
2	Varun Chakravarthy	706	706
3	Adil Rashid	705	747
4	Wanindu Hasaranga	700	809
5	Adam Zampa	694	746
5	Jacob Duffy	694	694
7	Ravi Bishnoi	674	707
8	Maheesh Theekshana	666	686
9	Rashid Khan	664	828
10	Arshdeep Singh	653	679

Prabha Sridevan: *The Hindu* Lifetime Achievement Award

Justice Prabha Sridevan (retired), the fifth woman to serve on the Madras High Court, distinguished herself during her tenure from 2000 to 2010. Subsequently, she served as Chairperson of the Intellectual Property Appellate Tribunal. Her landmark 'Homemaker Judgment' has earned widespread acclaim. Receiving *The Hindu* Lifetime Achievement Award, Justice Prabha Sridevan said, "I don't remember a time when I haven't seen *The Hindu* paper first thing in the morning, from living at my grandfather's house to today." The award was presented to her by Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson of The Hindu Group, and Madhavi Radhakrishnan of GRT Jewellers.

Supraja Dharini wins award for contributions to society

From the shores of Tamil Nadu to Odisha, Supraja Dharini, founder, Tree Foundation India, has saved around 44,654 Olive Ridley turtles. A dedicated sea turtle conservationist along the Indian East Coast since 2002, she has made significant strides in protecting marine life. At The Hindu World of Women 2025, Dr. Dharini was awarded *The Hindu* Contribution to Society Award. While receiving the award from Justice R. N. Manjula and V.C. Raghunath, Director of Business Development at Swelect Energy Systems Ltd., she shared about how far she has come safeguarding tens of thousands of Olive Ridley nests, resulting in the safe release of millions of hatchlings into the sea.

Kalki Subramaniam: diversity, equity, inclusion champion

Winning *The Hindu* Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Champion Award at The Hindu World of Women 2025 on Friday, Kalki Subramaniam, a transgender activist and inspirational speaker, has been working with the Indian transpersons community for decades. At the award ceremony, Ms Kalki said, "In my decades of activism, I have witnessed countless transwomen being trafficked or murdered. Many transwomen on the streets are suffering, and we need to shed light on that," she said. The award was presented to her by Danesa Raghulal, Executive Director, Elite foods and Shonali Miriam Muthalaly, Editor of *The Hindu* Metro Plus.

Prabha Narasimhan: excellence in business leadership

Prabha Narasimhan, MD and CEO of Colgate Palmolive India, was honoured with *The Hindu* Excellence in Business Leadership Award. The award was given to her by Justice R.N. Manjula of the Madras High Court and Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson of The Hindu Group. Ms. Narasimhan said, "I have grown up reading *The Hindu* and many of my family and friends work at this esteemed institution in the past and today." Under her leadership, the company continues to prioritise customer centric strategy reinforcing its position as an industry leader. She is a distinguished leader in the consumer goods segment. Her innovation has consistently driven business growth.

Aiswarya Rao: achievement in surpassing disability

Winning *The Hindu* Achievement in Surpassing Disability Award at The Hindu World of Women 2025 on Friday, Aiswarya Rao has been at the forefront in helping individuals especially women with disabilities through her organisation 'Better World Shelter for Women with Disabilities'. She focuses on creating safe, inclusive spaces, advocating for public health, gender equality and disability. "Disability is a design, as all of us are unique and different from one another. The world is built in a way that is not accessible to everyone, but with simple design changes the world becomes more accessible," she said. The award was presented to her by Justice R. N. Manjula, and Anitha Sampath Vice Chairperson of Naruvi Hospitals.

Chindi Varadarajulu: achieving excellence in entrepreneurship

Chindi Varadarajulu was driven by a passion for food and a desire to introduce authentic Tamil cuisine to Canada, and she established Chutney Villa in downtown Vancouver. Her entrepreneurial spirit then led her to introduce Western comfort food to southern India. In 2017, Ms. Chindi founded Pumpkin Tales in Chennai and today it empowers a 30-member women-only team, having positively impacted the lives of over 100 women and their families. Receiving *The Hindu* Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award from Mona Kannan, Director of Naga Foods, and Raghuveer Srinivasan, Editor, *businessline*, she said that to share the room with many such inspiring women has been so special.

Aruna Sairam: *The Hindu* Excellence in Music Award

Aruna Sairam's musical journey, rooted in her Bombay upbringing and south Indian heritage, began with a deep passion that would ultimately establish her as a luminary in Carnatic music. Her vocal mastery has earned her recognition as one of the most distinguished figures in classical music. In 2022, Ms. Sairam's exceptional contributions to music were acknowledged with prestigious honours, including the Sangita Kalanidhi and the Padma Shri. At The Hindu Group awards, she was presented *The Hindu* Excellence in Music Award by Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson, The Hindu Group, and L.V. Navaneeth, CEO of *The Hindu*.

Vaishali Rameshbabu wins award for excellence in sports

Winning *The Hindu* Excellence in Sports Award at The Hindu World of Women 2025 on Friday, Vaishali Rameshbabu, a chess prodigy, has been playing in the highest levels since the age of six. Speaking at the event, Ms. Vaishali said, "It is truly inspiring to see so many women are excelling out there. The award is very special to me." The award was presented to her by Atulya Misra Additional Chief Secretrary - Youth Welfare and Sport Development, government of Tamil Nadu, and J. Meganatha Reddy, CEO and Member Secretary, Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, and K.C. Vijaya Kumar, Sports Editor of *The Hindu*.

The Hindu honours women in diverse fields

Women's appearance in public spaces has become more significant and inevitable today, says Justice R.N. Manjula at the The Hindu World of Women (WoW) Awards 2025

Women empowerment: Justice R. N. Manjula (fourth from left) of the Madras High Court and Nirmala Lakshman (fifth from left), Chairperson of The Hindu Group, with the recipients of The Hindu World of Women 2025 awards in Chennai on Friday. M. VEDHAN

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Women's appearance in public spaces, which was once considered secondary, has become more significant and inevitable today, said Justice R.N. Manjula of the Madras High Court. "However, there are some lingering challenges. As the empowerment of women is an ongoing journey, women are still compelled to be in ambivalent social settings. They are expected to fit into some kind of socio-cultural mould and at the same time, achieve excellence. This demands women to work harder in order to retain their grip," she said while addressing a galaxy of women at The Hindu World of Women (WoW) Awards 2025, which celebrates the contributions of women across diverse domains.

Congratulating The Hindu Group for having conceived the idea of honouring women who have distinguished themselves and left a mark in their respective fields, she said: "I'm truly impressed with the array of awards under various categories, and the finely tuned attention and vision given to choose the diverse fields for conferring awards."

Justice Manjula also mentioned about the historic achievement of astronaut Sunita Williams and said that it was not just her personal victory but a victory for the whole of womanhood and mankind.

Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited (THGPPL), said that these awards serve as more than just a recognition of individual brilliance.

"They are a powerful reminder of the potential, resilience, and leadership that women bring to every sphere. Each of our honorees tonight embodies the spirit of perseverance and progress, and their stories inspire us all to strive for a more inclusive and equitable world," she said.

She adds, "At *The Hindu*, we believe that true progress is achieved only when every individual, regardless of gender, is given the opportunity to thrive. Through this platform, we not only celebrate women's achievements but also reaffirm our commitment to advocating for gender equality and empowerment. As we embark on this evening of inspiration and celebration, let us remember that the success of one woman paves the way for countless others."

The winners

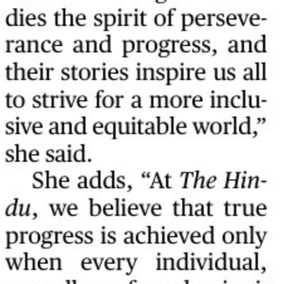
The Hindu Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Justice Prabha Sridevan (retired), *The Hindu* Excellence in Sports Award was given to Vaishali Rameshbabu, *The Hindu* Trailblazers in Technology Award was given to Roshni Nadar (in absentia) and *The Hindu* Excellence in Music Award was given to Aruna Sairam. GRT Generational Pride Award was given to Suneeta Reddy and Sindoori Reddy. *The Hindu* Excellence in Business Leadership Award was given to Prabha Narasimhan.

Awards were also given to entrepreneurs and those who made an impact in education and agriculture.

The Hindu Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award was presented to Chindi Varadarajulu, *The Hindu* Excellence in Agriculture & Rural Development Award was given to V. Geethalakshmi, while *The Hindu* Excellence in Education, Science & Technology Award was given to Tessy Thomas.

The Hindu Achievement in Surpassing Disability Award was given to Aiswarya Rao, *The Hindu* Contribution to Society Award was given to Supraja Dharini, *The Hindu* Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Champion Award was given to Kalki Subramaniam, *The Hindu* Excellence in Art & Culture Award was given to Thilagavathi Palani and *The Hindu* Excellence in Health & Hygiene Award was given to Vijayalakshmi Deshmane.

Suneeta Reddy, daughter get GRT Generational Pride Award



The GRT Generational Pride Award was presented to Suneeta Reddy, the managing director of Apollo Hospitals and her daughter, Sindoori Reddy, whose collective contributions have significantly advanced healthcare in India. The award was given to them by Madhavi Radhakrishnan of GRT Jewellers and Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson of The Hindu Group. Delivering her acceptance speech, Ms. Suneeta Reddy said: "When you think of generations of trust there is no better organisation than *The Hindu*." "As mothers when we think of what we want for our children, if not like us, we want them to be what we never were. And this expectation has sometimes shaped their lives." Suneeta Reddy spearheaded the nation's first foreign direct investment in the sector. Sindoori Reddy played a critical role in the establishment of Apollo Children's Hospital.

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- **Naga Foods** (in association)
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- **Roshan Bags** (bag partner)
- **Puthuyugam TV** (telecast partner)
- **Puthiyathalaimurai** (news tv partner)
- **Madras Management Association** (strategic partner)

Tessy Thomas - excellence in education and S&T

"The Defence Research and Development Organisation gave me the opportunity to work on strategic missile systems," said Tessy Thomas, who bagged the *The Hindu* Excellence in Education, Science & Technology award. "Women can do wonderful things if the opportunities are there," she added. Known as the Missile Woman of India, she has redefined the landscape of Indian science. The award was given to her by Pannalal Chordia, Management Committee member of AM Jain College, and Justice R.N. Manjula, of the Madras High Court, for her remarkable journey for illuminating the boundless potential of women in the realm of scientific innovation.

Thilagavathi Palani: excellence in the fields of art and culture

As the first woman in a male dominated field, artiste Thilagavathi Palani has broken barriers by portraying both male and female roles in Kattaikuttu. She co-founded Shri Krishna Kattaikuttu, where the artiste is expanding the reach of this traditional art form. Winning *The Hindu* Excellence in Art & Culture Award, she said, "Without my parents, I wouldn't have made it this far. In Kattaikkuttu, I was the first woman because I got the first opportunity. Now, there are 50 women in Kattaikuttu being trained." She spoke on the importance of seizing opportunities. The award was presented to her by Danesa Raghulal, Executive Director, Elite foods, and Rosella Stephen, Senior Associate Editor at *The Hindu*.

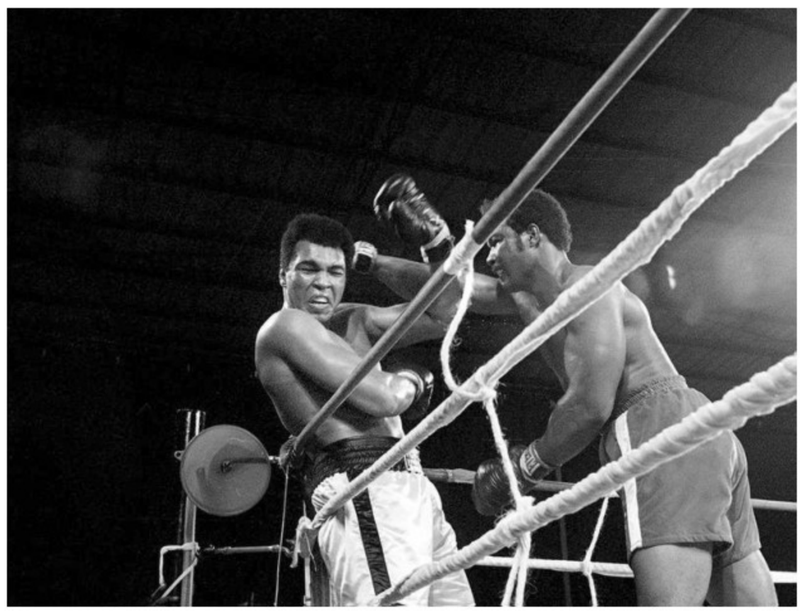
V. Geethalakshmi: excellence in agriculture, rural development

V. Geethalakshmi, a renowned climatologist, who has specialised in agricultural meteorology, has been awarded *The Hindu* Excellence in Agriculture and Rural Development at The Hindu World of Women 2025 on Friday. She has also served in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) for more than 32 years. Her experience has also facilitated developing climate weather modules where she has been significant in establishing an agro climate research centre at TNAU and Ph.D programmes in agricultural meteorology. She received the award from Krishna Mohan, vice-president of marketing at Aqua Group, and Suresh Nambath, Editor, *The Hindu*.

Vijayalakshmi Deshmane: excellence in health & hygiene

Winning *The Hindu* Excellence in Health & Hygiene Award at The Hindu World of Women (WoW) 2025 on Friday, oncologist Vijayalakshmi Deshmane had a story to tell. Despite all the odds, she pursued medicine and became a surgeon and then went on to become the director of Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology in Bengaluru. *The Hindu* Excellence in Health & Hygiene Award was given to her by Anitha Sampath, Vice Chairperson of Naruvi Hospitals, and Ramya Kannan, Chief of Bureau Tamil Nadu & Health Editor at *The Hindu*.

(All pictures by M. Vedhan)



One for the ages: Ali vs. Foreman in 'The Rumble in the Jungle'. GETTY IMAGES

Fists of fury: Foreman's bruising punches were bout-enders. GETTY IMAGES

Still got it: At 45, Foreman became the oldest heavyweight champion. GETTY IMAGES

Ageless champ, cultural icon, grill mogul: the life and times of George Foreman

The hall-of-fame boxer regained the heavyweight title two decades after losing it, had a religious awakening after a near-death experience, lost his money, built a business empire and became a celebrity. Every time circumstances knocked him down, he willed himself back to his feet

Ashwin Achal

The boxing world has always been full of colourful, inspiring characters. But even in this space, George Foreman stands out as an iconic figure.

Foreman, who passed away last week at the age of 76, truly led a full life. There were huge highs and crushing lows, a religious awakening stemming from a near-death experience, and the most unlikely comeback story which saw him become the oldest heavyweight champion in history.

Foreman holds his own in cultural folklore, having ended up on the wrong end of perhaps the greatest boxing match in history – 'The Rumble in the Jungle' against Muhammad Ali at Kinshasa, Zaire, in 1974. The epic battle – the subject of movies, books and documentaries galore – would normally define the life of the combatants. But not so for Foreman, who went on to script many glorious chapters.

Like most boxers, Foreman grew up in hardship and poverty. Raised by a single mother, Foreman's youth was one of crime in the rough and tough Fifth Ward community of Houston, Texas.

He was a troubled teenager, having taken to mugging and robbing. A botched mugging incident, however, forced Foreman to change his ways. In the biographical sports drama film, 'Big George Foreman', the protagonist is seen chased by the police, and is forced to hide in the sewage area of a home.

Defining moment

Foreman escaped the wrath of the police, but decided that he had to exit this life of crime. He enlisted in the Job Corps, a United States of America government programme that offers free education and vocational training. At the Job Corps, for the first time in his life, Foreman gained the luxury of having three square meals a day.

It was here that Foreman first put on the boxing gloves, at the insistence of Doc Broadus, a Job Corps counsellor and boxing coach.

Foreman's heavy punch, a trademark weapon through his career, was apparent early.

> There was a big element of patriotism in what I did; being in the Olympics, you couldn't help but love your country more than before

In just a year, Foreman managed to win the gold medal at the 1968 Mexico Olympics. After claiming the title, Foreman, a thorough patriot, waved a small American flag in the ring. This did not go down well with the African American community, who supported the actions of sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos, both of whom raised a black-gloved fist in protest against racism and discrimination against black people in the United States.

In his autobiography 'By George', Foreman defended his stance, stating, "There was a big element of patriotism in what I did; being in the Olympics, you couldn't help but love your country more than before."

It was soon time to move to the professional ranks. He built a fearsome reputation, with wild, violent, swinging punches which resembled an axeman chopping a tree.

After crushing lesser opponents, Foreman got a title shot in 1973, against champion Joe Frazier. Foreman entered the fight the underdog, as Frazier had earlier shut out an undefeated Ali.

In a demolition job at Kingston, Jamaica, Foreman battered Frazier in terrifying fashion. Frazier was knocked down no fewer than six times in two rounds, before the referee mercifully ended the fight.

In October 1974, Foreman entered an epic title defence against Ali. An ageing Ali was given no chance against the marauding Foreman, who, like his idol Sonny Liston, was jeered as an angry, grumpy champion.

The early rounds saw Foreman land heavy body shots on a retreating Ali. Leaning against the ropes, Ali bravely took Foreman's best shots, and refused to flinch.

Ruinous defeat

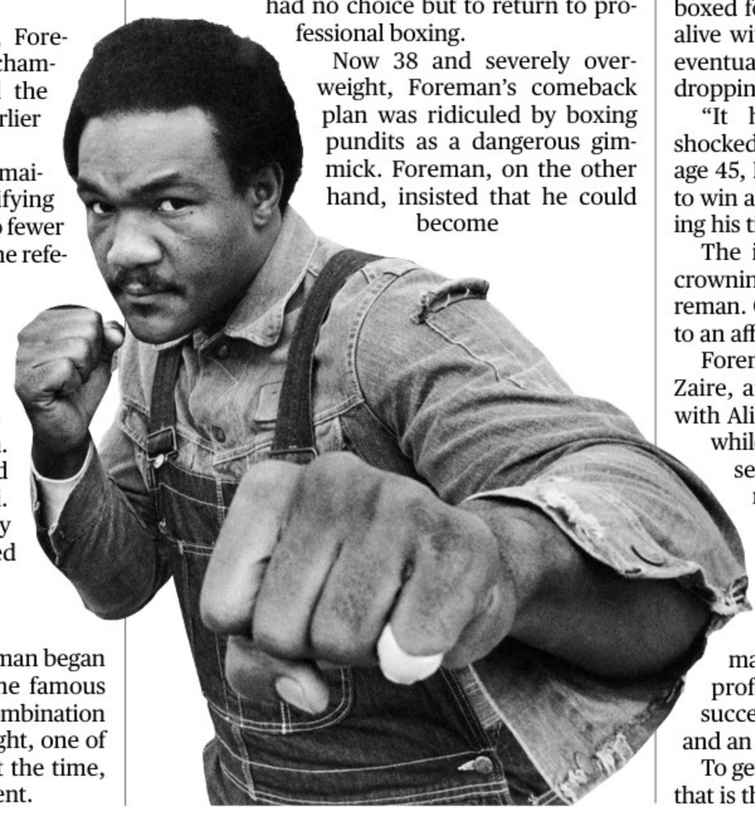
In the eighth round, a now tired Foreman began to lose power. Ali, the pioneer of the famous rope-a-dope, pounced with a quick combination that sent Foreman to the floor. The fight, one of the most-watched televised events at the time, would go down as Ali's greatest moment.

For Foreman, the loss was devastating. He yearned for a rematch, but Ali would not accept the challenge. Foreman grew increasingly desperate, even putting on a farcical fare by fighting five contenders in one night.

Foreman's shot at Ali would never come, as he had a life-changing experience in 1977. After losing to Jimmy Young in Puerto Rico, he suffered severe exhaustion and heat stroke. Foreman explained that he had a near-death experience in the dressing room, wherein he saw god.

That night changed the course of Foreman's life. A new man, he preached on street corners and started a youth centre. He swore never to box again.

But after nearly a decade of this way of life, Foreman found himself in financial difficulties. He needed to support his church and family, and had no choice but to return to professional boxing.



Now 38 and severely overweight, Foreman's comeback plan was ridiculed by boxing pundits as a dangerous gimmick. Foreman, on the other hand, insisted that he could become heavyweight champion once again.

He had to start from scratch all over again, taking on journeymen in small arenas. Foreman was not as agile as before, but that famous punching power remained.

He worked his way up to a title shot against undisputed heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield, but despite a stoic show, lost the fight.

After another loss to Tommy Morrison, it looked like the dream was over.

That was until Michael Moorer, who had defeated Holyfield for the championship, came calling. Moorer picked Foreman as his challenger out of the blue, as the fight was too lucrative to pass up. Foreman, 19 years older than Moorer, was seen as easy fodder.

> Ali was trying to win a boxing match, while I was trying to kill that guy. I wanted a second chance to kill him, and that broke my heart when I found religion. I fell in love with him later on

Redemption song

On November 5, 1994, a packed house at Las Vegas witnessed the grandest occasion when Foreman punched past all odds. After being outboxed for nine straight rounds, Foreman came alive with a flurry of shots. A short right hand eventually caught Moorer flush on the chin, dropping the champion to the canvas.

"It happened! It happened!" exclaimed shocked ringside commentator Jim Lampley. At age 45, Foreman became the oldest fighter ever to win a world championship, 20 years after losing his title for the first time.

The impossible dream was achieved – the crowning moment of this second chapter of Foreman. Outside the ring, he had transformed into an affable man with a million dollar smile.

Foreman exorcised all ghosts from the fight in Zaire, and went on to forge a great friendship with Ali. "Ali was trying to win a boxing match, while I was trying to kill that guy. I wanted a second chance to kill him, and that broke my heart when I found religion. I fell in love with him later on," Foreman said.

In his later years, Foreman prospered as a businessman. It is estimated that he earned over $200 million through the sales of the George Foreman Grill, far greater than his earnings as a professional boxer. He also embarked on a successful career as a boxing commentator and an actor.

To get up every time life lands a knockdown – that is the legacy Foreman leaves behind.

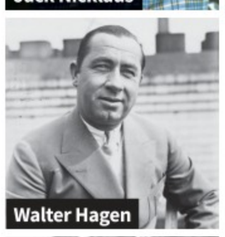
GAME THEORY

Golf's greats: mastering the Majors

Golf's Major season begins next month, with The Masters (Apr 10-13), the PGA Championship (May 15-18), the US Open (Jun 12-15) and The Open (Jul 17-20) set to be contested over a 15-week period. As an appetite-whetter, we look at the men with the most titles at these prestigious events:

Jack Nicklaus

Tiger Woods



Walter Hagen

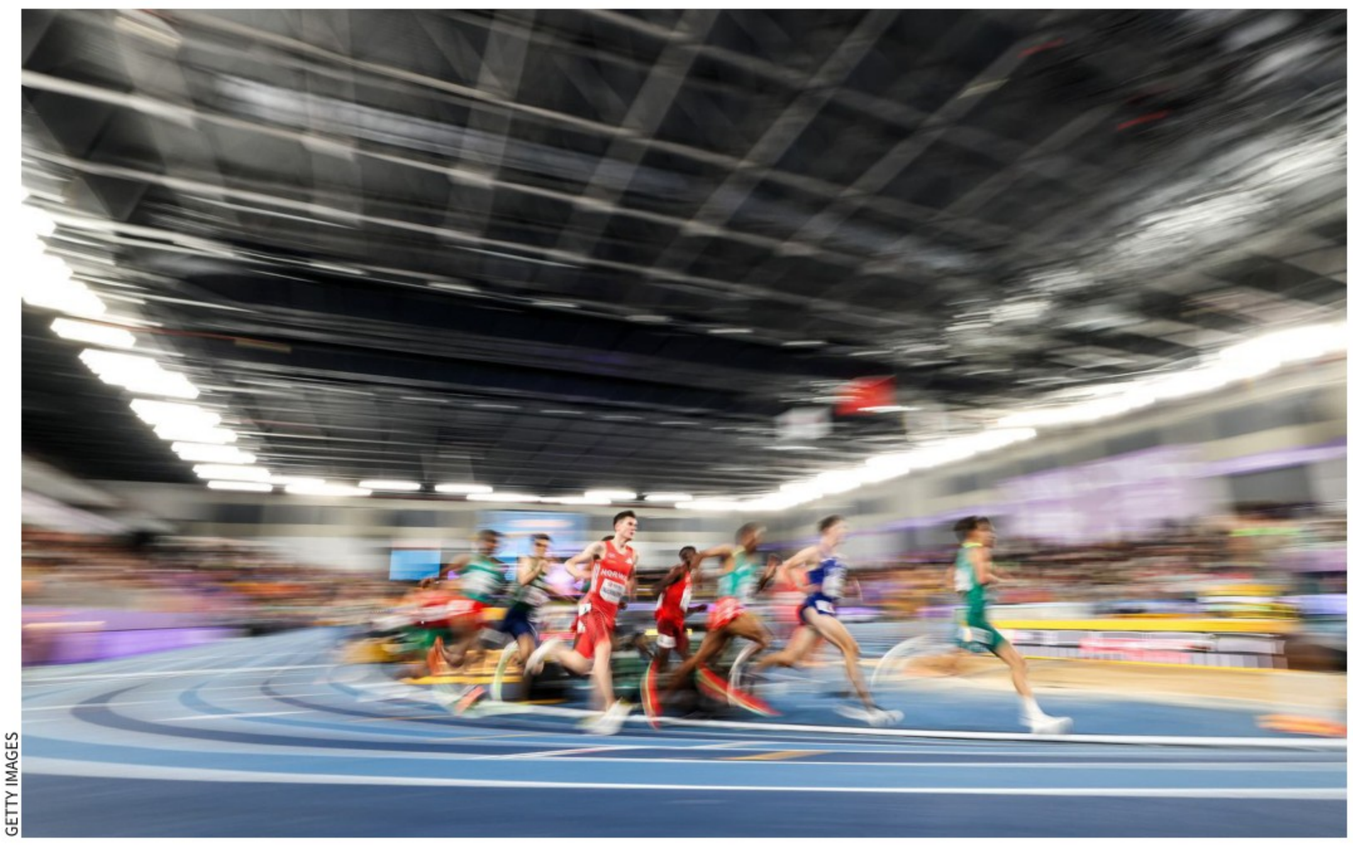
Gary Player

Ben Hogan

MOST MAJOR TITLES

Golfer	Masters	US Open	The Open	PGA	Total
Jack Nicklaus	6	4	3	5	18
Tiger Woods	5	3	3	4	15
Walter Hagen	0	2	4	5	11
Ben Hogan	2	4	1	2	9
Gary Player	3	1	3	2	9
Tom Watson	2	1	5	0	8
Harry Vardon	0	1	6	0	7
Bobby Jones	0	4	3	0	7
Gene Sarazen	1	2	1	3	7
Sam Snead	3	0	1	3	7
Arnold Palmer	4	1	2	0	7
Lee Trevino	0	2	2	2	6
Nick Faldo	3	0	3	0	6
Phil Mickelson	3	0	1	2	6
James Braid	0	0	5	0	5
John Henry Taylor	0	0	5	0	5
Byron Nelson	2	1	0	2	5
Peter Thomson	0	0	5	0	5
Seve Ballesteros	2	0	3	0	5
Brooks Koepka	0	2	0	3	5
Tom Morris Sr.	0	0	4	0	4
Tom Morris Jr.	0	0	4	0	4
Willie Park Sr.	0	0	4	0	4
Willie Anderson	0	4	0	0	4
Jim Barnes	0	1	1	2	4
Bobby Locke	0	0	4	0	4
Raymond Floyd	1	1	0	2	4
Ernie Els	0	2	2	0	4
Rory McIlroy	0	1	1	2	4

PICTURE THIS



GETTY IMAGES

On the double

A double Olympic champion and two-time world champion over 5,000m, Jakob Ingebrigtsen quite remarkably had not managed to secure a world indoor title until last weekend.

But he ended that drought in style in Nanjing, China, completing a golden double by capturing the men's 1,500 metres title on the final day of the World Indoor Athletics Championships, a day after claiming the 3,000m crown.

The Norwegian matched the feat of Ethiopian great Haile Gebrselassie who won the double at the 1999 indoor worlds in Maebashi, Japan.

"It's very difficult to compare yourself against history," said Ingebrigtsen. "It's not to do with something somebody else did before. I'm only focusing on myself."

The 24-year-old has a target on his back, as the man to beat. But he copes by never standing still. "My competitors study me, but you have to race many times to be able to respond in all scenarios," he said. "I've done a lot of racing but I'm not perfect.

"It's all about learning. The more you race, the more you learn, so you can make the right decisions at the right point."

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A BG-BGE

Wheeling: 58 cases booked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Traffic Police conducted a special drive against wheeling across the city on Thursday night.

A total of 58 cases were registered, and 45 persons were arrested for indulging in the dangerous practice. The police also seized 58 two-wheelers during the drive.

This is one of the highest number of cases booked in a single day for wheeling in the city.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: 64/2024/SBC
Dated : 25-03-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the Supply of following items.

Description in brief : Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Compressed air pipeline. **(Tender No. L8255384) (Qty : 01 Set)**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs on 18-04-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager Bengaluru
PUB/873/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. HE-21-2024-25
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Provision of grid connected roof top solar plants at railway stations, staff quarters and LC gates over Hubballi Division.	Rs. 15,85,40,844.74

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 22-04-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General
PUB/874/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Hubballi
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Divl. Rly. Manager, N.W.Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works up to 15.00 hours on 15.04.2025 as below:- **Tender No.** : 244 **Name of work with its Location** : Replacement of 18 No. Type-II quarters at Hisar in the jurisdiction of ADEN/Sirsa **Approx. cost of work** : Rs. 37002055.95 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 335000.00 **Tender No.** : 245 **Name of work with its Location** : Construction of 7 staff quarters type II (1 KGBS, 1 JTS, 2 KSI, 1 MHU, 2 CKD) under control of ADEN/ Bhiwani **Approx. cost of work** : Rs. 14990964.29 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 225000.00 **Tender No.** : 246 **Name of work with its Location** : Construction of 15 Nos. staff quarters type II (4 STD, 2 JKHI, 3 ADR, 2 KNL, 2 SHN, 2 BHT) under control of ADEN/Sirsa **Approx. cost of work** : Rs. 32009632.28 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 310100.00 **Tender No.** : 247 **Name of work with its Location** : Replacement of 18 No. Type-II quarters in RE- SDLP & RE-BTI section in the jurisdiction of ADEN/ Bhiwani **Approx. cost of work** : Rs. 37002055.95 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 335000.00 **Note**- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.ireps.gov.in.
362-DR/25
Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Catalogue No. OLDPRSCBPMAR25
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites bidders to participate in the E-tender for the following works.

Name of the work with its location : Vide the e-Auction catalogue No. PARKOLDPRS-25 published on 04-04-25 at 10.53 hrs on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in. The award of contract for a period of three (3) years, for the operation **of combined Parking lot near old PRS office at Hubballi** Railway Stations.

Date & Time of E-Auction : **04-04-2025 at 11:30 hrs.**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in (e-auction portal)
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Hubballi
PUB/875/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

JHARKHAND MEDICAL & HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LTD.
MCH BUILDING, RCH CAMPUS, NAMKUM, RANCHI – 834010.
(CIN – U855100JH2013SGC001276)
E-mail:jmhidpc2014@gmail.com
Website: https://jmhidpcl.jharkhand.gov.in/
GST No. 20AADCJ4293L2ZH
JMHIDPCL

Tender Notice for MRI-3 Tesla & CT-SCAN-256 Slice
Corrigendum No. 03
The Corrigendum No-03 for site inspection & assessment for Tender No- JMC/NIT-25/MRI-CT/06 has been published in detail. Please visit the tender e-Portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in.
Ref:-Advt. PR No :346945
PR 349431 Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Dev & Procurement Corp Ltd (24-25)_D
Sd/-
Managing Director
JMHIDPCL

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
BUILDING DIVISION, HAZARIBAG
e-Procurement Cell
e-Procurement Notice
Tender Reference No:-BCD/EE/HAZARIBAG/ 78 /2024-25 **Date:-** 27-03-2025

Sl. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	B.O.Q Rate	Time of completion
1	**Proposed Construction of District Bar Council Building in the District Hazaribag**	49272800/-	986000/-	10000/-	12 Month

A.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	08-04-2025
B.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids	21-04-2025 03.00 PM
C.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Office of the Executive Engineer, Building Construction Department, Building Division,Hazaribag
D.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	9348952485
E.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	**06546-225723**

Further details and subsequent amendments can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
Nodal Officer, e-Procurement Cell, Office of the Executive Engineer, Building Construction Department, Building Division, Hazaribag
PR 349528 Building (24-25)_D

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
BUILDING DIVISION, HAZARIBAG
e-Procurement Cell
e-Procurement Notice
Tender Reference No:-BCD/EE/HAZARIBAG/ 77 /2024-25 **Date:-** 27-03-2025

Sl.No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	B.O.Q Rate	Time of completion
1	Proposed Construction Of 50 Bedded Hostel for Madarsa Hussania Education and Welfare Trust at Block - Katkamsandi, Vill- Pelawal, Hazaribagh For The Year 2024-2025	29577000/-	592000/-	10000/-	9 Month

A.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	04-04-2025
B.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids	16-04-2025 03.00 PM
C.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Office of the Executive Engineer, Building Construction Department, Building Division,Hazaribag
D.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	9348952485
E.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	**06546-225723**

Further details and subsequent amendments can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
Nodal Officer, e-Procurement Cell, Office of the Executive Engineer, Building Construction Department, Building Division, Hazaribag
PR 349525 (Building) 24-25 (D)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
BUILDING DIVISION, HAZARIBAG
e-Procurement Cell
e-Procurement Notice
Tender Reference No:-BCD/EE/HAZARIBAG/ 76 /2024-25 Date:- 27-03-2025

Sl. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	B.O.Q Rate	Time of completion
1	Proposed Construction of 50 Bedded Hostel for Madarsa Jabra Al Jamaitul Hafizia at Block - Churchu, Vill- Indira, Hazaribagh, For The Year 2024-2025	29577600/-	592000/-	10000/-	9 Month

A.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	04-04-2025
B.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids	16-04-2025 03.00 PM
C.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Office of the Executive Engineer, Building Construction Department, Building Division,Hazaribag
D.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	9348952485
E.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	**06546-225723**

Further details and subsequent amendments can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
Nodal Officer, e-Procurement Cell, Office of the Executive Engineer, Building Construction Department, Building Division, Hazaribag
PR 349523 Building(24-25).D

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways)
Government of India
Public Notice
Revision of User Fee rates for FY 2025-26 at Toll Plaza at Km. 359.800 near Hosahalli Village on NH-948 (Old NH-209)

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to Govt. of India Gazette Notification S.O No.5247 (E) dated 05.12.2024 and approval of Competent Authority, NHAI vide letter dated 24.03.2025, the Revised User fee rates at Hosahalli Fee Plaza at Km. 359+800, near Sathyagalla Village shall be levied w.e.f 01.04.2025 (00:00 Hrs) for the use of 71.14 Km section on 2/4 lane National Highway from BRT Tiger Reserve Boundary to Bangalore South section Border to Bangalore section of NH-948 (old NH-209) from Km. 287.500 to Km. 458.420 in the State of Karnataka.

The Revised User Fee Rates for FY 2025-26 to be levied w.e.f 01.04.2025 (00:00 Hrs) at Fee Plaza at Hosahalli Fee Plaza Km 359.800 of NH-209 (New NH-948) near Sathyagala village, Mandya district in the State of Karnatak is as below:

Hosahalli Fee Plaza, NH-948 (Old NH-209)
USER FEE RATES- FY 2025-26

Category	Fee for single journey	Fee for return Journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month	Fee for commercial vehicles registered within the district of Plaza
Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	75	115	2570	40
LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	125	185	4150	60
Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	260	390	8695	130
3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	285	425	9485	140
Heavy Construction Machinery/ Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	410	615	13635	205
Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	500	745	16600	250

2. The following concessions are available as per the Gazette Notification at above Toll Plaza:
a. For Return journey within 24 hours from time of payment for all categories of vehicles the amount payable is one-half times the fee for one way journey (Discount 25%).
b. For 50 Single journey in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles the Fee payable is Two-third of amount of the fee payable for fifty single journeys (Discount 33%).
c. Fee for commercial vehicles (excluding vehicles plying under National permit) registered in the district where the fee plaza falls shall be 50% of the specified rate for that category of vehicle. (Discount 50%)
d. A person who owns a mechanical vehicle registered for non-commercial purposes and resides within a distance of twenty kilometers from the fee plaza can avail a Monthly Pass for Rs.350 (Rupees Three Hundred and Fifty Only per month) for the year 2025-26 and is subject to revision every year as per the provisions of NH Fee Rule 2008 and its amendments thereof.
3. The list of exempted vehicles is as given in the amendment to NH Fee Rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSR 950 E.
4. The Toll notification for this Plaza S.O No.5247 (E) dated 05.12.2024 has been published in Gazette of India.
5. For any complaints, emergency, suggestion and feedback please contact NHAI help line number 1033 or contact Office of the Project Director, No. 609, Sri Chamundeswari Railway Layout, Shyadanahalli, Mysuru Taluk & Dist. Pin No. 570003.

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

Government of India
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India)
Project Implementation Unit - Ramanagara (Mysuru)
PUBLIC NOTICE
REVISION OF USER FEE RATES FOR FY 2025-26 AT KANIMINIKE AND SHESHAGIRIHALLI ON NH-275.

The public are hereby notified that pursuant to Govt. of India Gazette Notification S.O. 402(E) dated 25.01.2023and approval of Competent Authority, NHAI vide letter dated 24.03.2025, the Revised User fee rates at Kaniminike and Sheshagirihalli Toll PlazaToll Plaza shall be levied w.e.f 01.04.2025 (00:00 Hrs) for the use Six laning of Bengaluru-NidaghattaSection, Km 18.000 to Km 74.200 of NH-275 in State of Karnataka.

The Revised User Fee Rates for FY 2025-26 to be levied w.e.f 01.04.2025 (00:00 Hrs) on NH-275 in the State of Karnataka at following Toll Plazas:

1. Fee Plaza at Km 23.900, Near Kaniminike Village, Bengaluru Urban District, at Km. 26.800 near Sheshagirihalli village, Ramanagara District of NH-275.

Kaniminike Toll Plaza & Sheshagirihalli toll plaza
USER FEE RATES-FY2025-26.

Category	Fee for Single Journey	Fee for return Journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month	Local monthly pass
Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	180	270	5945	350
LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	290	430	9605	Not applicable
Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	605	905	20130	
3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	660	990	21960	
Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	945	1420	31565	
Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	1155	1730	38430	

Note: All Amounts are in Rupees

2. The following concessions are available as per the Gazette Notification the above mentioned Toll Plazas:-
a. For Return journey within 24 hours from time of payment for all categories of vehicles the amount payable is one-half times the fee for one way journey (Discount 25%).
b. For 50 Single journey in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles the Fee payable is Two-third of amount of the fee payable for fifty single journeys (Discount 33%).
c. A person who owns a mechanical vehicle registered for non-commercial purposes and resides within a distance of twenty kilometers from the fee plaza can avail a Monthly Pass for Rs.350(Rupees Three Hundred and Fifty Only per month) for the year 2025-26 and is subject to revision every year as per the provisions of NH Fee Rule 2008 and its amendments thereof.
3. The list of exempted vehicles is as given in the amendment to NH Fee Rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSR 950 E.
4. The Toll notification for this Plaza Toll Gazette Notification No. 402(E) dated 25.01.2023 has been published in Gazette of India.
5. For any complaints, emergency, suggestion and feedback please contact NHAI help line number 1033 or contact Office of the Project Director, No. 609, Sri Chamundeswari Railway Layout, Shyadanahalli, Mysuru Taluk & Dist. Pin No. 570003.

BUILDING A NATION NOT JUST ROADS

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways)
Government of India
PUBLIC NOTICE ON USER FEE (TOLL) RATES AT CHOWLAGERE TOLL PLAZA APPLICABLE FROM 01.04.2025 TO 31.03.2026

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to approval of user fee rates vide letter dated 24.03.2025 of NHAI, the User fee rates for use of section from Ch. 184+912 to 209+800 and 216+700 to 220+000 i.e, 28.188 Km. (Hassan to Maranahally section) of NH-75 are going to be revised as under w.e.f.01.04.2025 at Chowlagere Toll Plaza (Chainage:193.020 Km., near Chowlagere village Hassan District) in the State of Karnataka:

Category of Vehicles	Fee for single journey (in Rupees)	Fee for return journey on the within a day (in Rupees)	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month (in Rupees)	Fee for commercial vehicles registered within the district of Plaza (in Rupees)
Car/ Jeep/ Van or Light Motor Vehicle	50	75	1675	25
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	80	120	2710	40
Truck or Bus (2 Axle)	170	255	5675	85
3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	185	280	6190	95
Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment(EME) or Multi Axle Vehicle(MAV) (4 to 6 Axles)	265	400	8895	135
Oversized Vehicle (7 or more axle)	325	485	10830	160
The rate for monthly pass applicable for local non-commercial vehicle residing within a distance of 20 km from the toll plaza shall be Rs.350				

Note: Aforementioned Concessions can be availed only through GoI's FASTag program as per NHAI Policy Circular No.NHAI/13013/CO/2019-20/147464 dt. 15.01.2020 & NHAI Policy Guideline/Management of Monthly Passes/2018, Policy No. 17.5.78 dt. 16.02.2018.
2.The above section was developed as per provisions of Contract Agreement dated 11.05.2016 on EPC mode and Authority Engineer vide letter dated 10.10.2024 certified the completed length of 28.188 Km. for putting on commercial operation. The above rates are applicable for a completed length of 28.188 Km, which comprises of following:

Type of section	Length (Km)	Equivalent Length (Km) for which user fee is to be levied	Lane Configuration
Straight Section	22.050	22.050	4
Bypasses (costing> Rs.10.0 Cr.)	5.920	5.920	4
Structures (length>60M)	0.218	0.218	4

3. The following concessions are available at above toll plaza:
i. Return Journey within 24 Hours from time of payment for all categories of vehicles (discount 25%)
ii. 50 single journey in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles (discount-33%)
iii. Pass at Rs.350.00/- per calendar month for non-commercial vehicle residing within 20 Km. from Toll Plaza.
iv. Commercial Vehicle (excluding those plying under national permit) registered in the District of Toll Plaza (discount 50%)
4. The list of exempted vehicles is as given in the Amendment to Fee Rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSR 950(E).
5. The vehicle, which is loaded in excess of permissible load, shall pay 10 times the applicable fee rate and remove the excess load to make use of highway.
6. The Capital Cost of the Project is Rs. 1021.57 Crore. The user fee (toll) rates shall be reduced to 40% on recovery of capital cost.
7. For viewing the fee notification dated 2008 & its Amendments published in the Gazette, letter of NHAI dated 24.03.2025 containing approval of rates, etc, the website http://nhaitis.org may be visited.
8. For any enquiry and or giving complaints/suggestions, please contact Project Director, NHAI,PIU, 44/1, A1, 1st Main, Kuvempu Road, Indranagar, Sathyamangala Layout, Hassan-573201 Ph:08172-240215).

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

ESIC कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम (श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार) EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION (Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)
कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम अस्पताल, पीन्या सं. 11-55-1, प्लॉट सं.1, 5वां मेन रोड (एफ.टी.आई. कैंपस) यशवंतपुर उपनगर, यशवंतपुर, पो.ऑ. बैंगलुरू. 560022
ESIC Hospital Peenya, 55-1-11, Plot No.1, 5th Main Road (FTI Campus), Survey N. 11, Yeshwanthapur, Bengaluru-560022 Ph.No. 080-29723468, E-mail: ms-peenya.ka@esic.nic.in

492/A/20/11(165744)/Estt. **Date: 28.03.2025**

NOTICE

Whereas, Smt. Sarada Kedaginamane (Employee Id. 165744), Nursing Officer, ESIC Hospital Peenya, Bengaluru is on unauthorized absence from duty w.e.f 05.04.2022 and a Chargesheet under Regulation 12 &13 of Second Schedule of the ESIC (Staff & Conditions of Service) Regulations, 2023 has been issued against her vide ESIC HQ Memorandum No. C-14/13/10/2023/Vig. dated 05.07.2023. The above Chargesheet has been sent to the official Email Id: **sarada.kedaginamane@esic.nic.in** and personal Email Id: **sarada.veena.k@googlemail.com** on 28.03.2025 and has also been published on the Website of ESIC Hospital Peenya (peenyahospital.esic.gov.in) vide console No.20379/2025. Smt. Sarada Kedaginamane, Nursing Officer is instructed to submit the reply to the Chargesheet within 10 days from this notice, failing which disciplinary proceedings shall be finalized as per the rules.
Sd/-
Medical Superintendent

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Patil Baby Sambhaji is mother of No 10490365Y Rank Nk Name Patil Pravin Sambaji presently residing at (House No-1, E Ward, Vill- Tembaliwadi, PO- Market Yard, Teh- Karveer, Dist- Kolhapur, State- Maharashtra, Pin-416005) that have declared to changed my name from Patil Baby Sambhaji to Bebi Sambhaji Patil vide affidavit dated 24/03/2025 before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, B'luru

I,RANJIT KUMAR JHA S/O Jogindra Jha R/O F204 2nd Floor Godrej Avenues S Doddaballapura Yelahanka Bangalore Karnataka–560064 have changed my minor Son's name from Rishit Jha to Rishith Jha aged 14 Years.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SRI. DEVARAJU B M S/o MUNIYAPPA, residing at No.45, 11th Cross,Near Gundu Thopu, Geddalahalli, Bangalore - 560 094., hereby declare that the name of my son, has been changed to **YUVRAJATHARVA D** from **Madan D** (Aadhar No. 710150900856), aged about 15 years and a student at class IX, in Sandepani NiketanEnglish School, AECS Layout, Raja Mahal Vilas 2nd Stage, Sanjaynagar, Bengaluru - 560 094. Before a notary, Bangalore city. Henceforth, my son shall called as **YUVRAJ ATHARVA D,** instead of **Madan D** and all of his records shall be changed accordingly.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF THE V ADDL. DISTRICT AND SESSIONS CUM FAMILY JUDGE AT VISAKHAPATNAM
G.O.P. 1698/2024
Between:
Mrs. Deepthi Patta ...Petitioner
And
Sri Harpeet Singh Walia
To, ...Respondent
The Respondent:
Sri Harpeet Singh Walia,
S/o. Parvinder Singh Walia,
Aged about 41 years, R/at #M405, Brindavan Palms, Ext to Bosch, Naganthapura, Hosa Road, Bangalore-560100.
The above G.O.P. case filed against the above referred respondent by the petitioner. The Hon'ble Court has been pleased to order notices to above name of the respondent to serve notice through paper publication and direct to publish the notice by way of substitute services of Court Notice. Please take notice that the above G.O.P.1698/2024 is posted to **21-04-2025** at **10:30 A.M.**, on the above named Court either in person or through Advocate for your appearance. If you fail to attend the Court on the said date and time the matter will be decided exparte.
(By Order of the Hon'ble Court)
B.G. CHANDRA SEKHAR, SAKA RAJENDRA PRASAD, BANDREDDI VENKATA SAI GANESH & KARRI SUREKHA, Advocates
Visakhapatnam (AP). **Cell:99488 56464**

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, NAYEEM Ahmed, R/a Jenithaya Nilaya, Ground Floor, Church Street Opp Brindavan Layout, Bangalore North, Bangalore-36 have changed my minor son name from Karthik Nag to Sayeed Ahmed vide affidavit dt.27.03.2025 before Notary C V Earappa, Bangalore.

I, NAYEEM Ahmed, R/a Jenithaya Nilaya, Ground Floor, Church Street Opp Brindavan Layout, Bangalore North, Bangalore-36 have changed my minor daughter name from Sneha Nag to Asifa Banu vide affidavit dt.27.03.2025 before Notary C V Earappa, Bangalore

I, MARY Ambrose, W/o. Senthil Kumar, residing at #3, 2nd Cross, 2nd Main, 2nd Stage, Gowthamapuram, Ulsoor, Bengaluru 560008, have changed my name to Amudha vide Affidavit Dated: 27/03/2025, sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru.

I, MOHAMMAD Rubina Naseem D/o Yakub Mohammad residing at No.269, Sector C, Jal Vayu Vihar, Kammanahalli, Bengaluru-560043 Karnataka have changed my name to Rubina Naseem vide affidavit dated 28/03/2025 before Meer Hassan Notary, Bengaluru.

I, P. KOUSALYA, Wife of Late Ex.No.13960995P, Rank: Naik, Name: Pitchai Nathan, residing at No.53, Rodgers Camp, Andersonpet, K G F do hereby changed my name from P. Kousalya to Kousalya. P. as per my affidavit dated 28-03-2025 duly signed by Thangaraj. S, Notary Public, K G F.

PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is brought to the notice of General Public that our Client is intending to purchase immovable property bearing Northern Portion of Site No.7, Khatha No. 24/7, EPID No.2678852971, Property No.24, SEEGEHALLI Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, BETQ, under the BBMP Limits, Bangalore, Measuring E-W on Northern Side:44 ft, E-W on Southern Side: 42.5 ft, N-S on Eastern Side:16 ft and N-S on Western Side:14.3 ft, in all Measuring: 655.23 sqft and bounded on the East by : Road, West by : Remaining portion of Site No, 3 & 4, North by : Road, South by : Remaining portion of Site No. 7, from its owners **Mr. SHIVARAM JAYARAMA REDDY,** S/o., Mr.Naganna, No. 30, 1st Cross, L.G.Ramanna Layout, Laggere, Peenya Small Industries, B'lore-58. Any person/s having objections to the said transactions can register their claim/s with documentary evidence with the undersigned within 7 days of publication hereof, failing which, our clients will proceed with the transactions and any claim/s received thereafter will not be entertained.
H.V.NAVEEN KUMAR RAO & H.V.SUNIL KUMAR RAO
ADVOCATES No. 57, 1st Floor,Veerapillai Street, Bengaluru-01 Mob: 9341380225

BEML secures fresh order worth ₹405 cr. for metro trainsets

A file photo of a metro train coach getting ready at BEML in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BEML Limited has secured an additional order worth over ₹405 crore from Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) for the supply of seven more metro trains (42 cars) under Phase 2 of the Namma Metro project. This takes the total number of trainsets ordered from BEML to 60, comprising 360 metro cars. The metro trainsets, designed and developed by BEML's in-house engineering teams in the city, will feature a six-car driverless configuration. Built using high-tensile Austenitic stainless steel, the trains are designed for enhanced durability, safety, and passenger comfort. Each car will be equipped with two roof-mounted air conditioners to provide an optimal travel experience, a release from BEML stated.

BEML Chairman and Managing Director Shantanu Roy said, "BEML is proud to strengthen its long-standing partnership with BMRCL by delivering state-of-the-art metro trainsets designed to enhance Bengaluru's urban mobility. With cutting-edge technology, enhanced safety features, and a focus on passenger comfort, these trainsets will significantly contribute to the efficiency and reliability of the city's metro network."

According to BEML release is incorporating cutting-edge technology in the new trainsets, including an IP-based Passenger Announcement (PA) and Passenger Information System (PIS), a Passenger Saloon Surveillance System (PSSS) for real-time station updates, and enhanced security features. "The trains will also feature an LCD-based dynamic route map display and electrically driven automatic doors synchronized with Platform Screen Doors for improved passenger safety," the release added.

This latest order is an extension of contract 5RS-DM, originally awarded to BEML in August 2023 in a globally competitive bid. The initial contract, valued at approximately ₹3,177 crore, covers the design, manufacturing, installation, testing, and maintenance of the trainsets for up to 15 years.

Christ Academy hosts first start-up conclave

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Christ Academy Institute for Advanced Studies (CAIAS) hosted its inaugural Start-Up Conclave on Wednesday.

The event provided a platform for entrepreneurs, investors, and students to engage in meaningful discussions about innovation while aligning with the nation's 'Make in India' initiative.

The conclave attracted over 50 entrepreneurs from various sectors, 10 investors from across the country, and 2,000 students from the institution. The event featured panel discussions, industry insights, and interactive sessions that focused on the challenges and opportunities within the start-up ecosystem. The summit highlighted four key award categories: Young Entrepreneur, Most Innovative, Most Green and Sustainable, and Women-led Start-Up.

Entrepreneurs shared their experiences, detailing their journeys, addressing the challenges faced, and offering strategies for success. Experts and venture capitalists also shared their insights with students, covering several topics.

HYD RAJIV GANDHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GMR AERO ENTERPRISE

TENDER NOTICE

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) invites bids for **"Deployment of Private Security Agency for undertaking non-core security functions at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport for a period of 3 years"**. For details, interested parties may download the tender document free of charge from **https://www.hyderabad.aero/tenders.aspx** between 28.03.2025 to 06.04.2025 (23:59) Hrs and submit their bid as per the process & timeline prescribed in the Tender Document.

HIA/63/PREM ASSOCIATES

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Holiday travel pushes up private bus fares in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

KSRTC has deployed 2,000 additional buses from March 28 to 31 to accommodate festive travellers. FILE PHOTO

With the festivals of Ugadi and Id-ul-Fitr coinciding this weekend, bus stations and railway terminals across Bengaluru were packed with passengers heading to their hometowns or vacation destinations.

Amidst the rush, private bus operators significantly hiked fares, drawing criticism from passengers. Many travellers were taken aback by the steep rise in ticket prices, with some alleging that fares had doubled overnight.

Fully booked

While Ugadi falls on Sunday, Id-ul-Fitr is on Monday. As a result, thousands of commuters who planned to leave on the night of March 28 found trains and government buses fully booked, forcing them to opt for costly private bus tickets.

"I usually travel to Shivamogga by bus, paying around ₹600 for a ticket. But today, I was charged ₹1,200 for the same journey. The sudden increase is unfair," said Rajesh Kumar, a software professional traveling from Bengaluru.

Similarly, Sneha Krishna Rao, a college student heading to Mangaluru, lamented, "I checked fares online a few days ago, and it was ₹800. But when I booked today, it had shot up to ₹1,400. We don't have any other option but to pay. The government should take action on such issues." However, private bus operators defended the fare hikes, citing operational costs. Nataraj Sharma, president of the Private Bus Owners' Association, dismissed claims of fares doubling.

"We have not increased prices so much. The Shakti scheme has impacted private bus operators. Additionally, road tax, insurance, and the rising cost of spare parts have all added to our financial burden. We had no choice but to increase fares during peak travel periods, but not as much as claimed," he said.

Additional buses

In response to the growing demand, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation announced the deployment of 2,000 additional buses from March 28 to March 31 to accommodate festive travellers.

These extra services will operate from Bengaluru to key destinations, including Dharmasthala, Kukke Subramanya, Shivamogga, Hassan, Mangaluru, Kundapur, Sringeri, Horanadu, Davangere, Hubbali, Dharwad, Belagavi, Vijayapura, Gokarna, Sirsi, Karwar, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Ballari, Koppal, Yadgir, Bidar, Tirupati, Vijayawada, and Hyderabad.

For travellers heading towards Mysuru, Virajpet, Kushalnagar, and Madikeri, additional buses will be available from the Mysuru Road Bus Station. Premium bus services to Tamil Nadu and Kerala, covering cities such as Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Kumbakonam, Tiruchi, Palakkad, Thrissur, Ernakulam, and Kozhikode, will depart from Shanthinagar TTMC.

To ease booking

To ease the booking process, KSRTC has facilitated reservations for these special services through its counters in Karnataka and neighbouring states, including Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Puducherry, Maharashtra, and Goa. Online bookings can be made via the KSRTC website.

Passengers can also avail themselves of discounts, with a 5% reduction in fares for group bookings of four or more under a single ticket and a 10% discount on return journey tickets booked along with the onward journey.

Ugadi: Flowers, fruits get expensive

Vendors attribute the increase in prices to a combination of reduced supply and heightened demand across the State

Chandan M. Naik
Raghav H.S.
BENGALURU

People buying flowers at the K.R. Market on Friday. In sharp contrast to the rising cost of flowers and fruits, vegetable prices have declined as the supply has exceeded the demand. SUDHAKARA JAIN

As the city is decked up for Ugadi, the prices of fruits and flowers have shot up. A kilogram of sevanthige (chrysanthemum) was selling for around ₹200 on Friday while button roses were selling at ₹250 - ₹300 a kg. Jasmine and kanakambara (crossandra) were selling at ₹300 - 400 a kg. The prices of all these flowers have gone up by ₹100 a kg on an average for the festival.

Vendors attribute the spike to a combination of reduced supply and heightened demand across Karnataka. Manjula, a flower vendor at K.R. Market, said, "Intense heat and harsh summer conditions have compromised flower quality. Prices have risen with the festival, yet we are still waiting for the usual rush of customers."

The fruit markets have seen a steady flow of produce but with overlapping of Ugadi with Eid has resulted in prices of some fruits being hiked. The costliest of them all is pomegranate, which was selling at ₹400 a kg on Friday in many markets. Mangoes, which are yet to arrive in the market in their best quality, are currently selling for around ₹60 - ₹120 a kg. Yelakki bananas and apples were selling at ₹80 a kg and ₹300 - 350 a kg respectively.

Price of flowers

Flower	Price for a kg
Sevanthige	₹200
Rose	₹250 - ₹300
Jasmine	₹300 - ₹400
Kanakambara	₹300 - ₹400

Price of fruits

Fruit	Price for a kg
Apple	₹300 - ₹350
Banana (yelakki)	₹80
Mango	₹80 - ₹120
Pomegranate	₹400

Price of meat

Mutton - ₹800 - ₹900 a kg	Boneless chicken - ₹400 a kg

As on March 28

Vegetable prices decline

In sharp contrast to the rising costs of flowers and fruits, vegetable prices have declined as the supply to the market has exceeded the demand.

Except for beans whose price has gone up by around ₹10 - ₹15 a kg, there has been no significant change in the prices of other vegetables. When compared to the previous year's prices, most of them have seen a decline of at least ₹15 a kg.

Murugan, a resident of Vasanth Nagar, shopping at K.R. Market, praised the market's offerings, "Prices are low, and the quality is better than last year. But the price of coconut has increased," he said.

Munawar, a vegetable seller at K.R. Market, remarked, "Ugadi typically draws huge numbers, but this year, the response has been surprisingly low."

Meat costlier

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With Hostadaku and Eid both falling on March 31, the price of meat has gone up by ₹50 - ₹100 a kg.

Imran Pasha, a vendor on Mysuru Road, remarked, "Last week, prices hovered around ₹700 a kg, but they've now jumped to ₹800 a kg due to Hostadaku and Eid. Demand is so strong that people will buy mutton even if it hits ₹1,000 a kg. On the festival day itself, it could climb that high."

At some markets, mutton was also selling at ₹900 a kg on Friday while skinout chicken was selling at ₹300 a kg and boneless chicken was selling at ₹400 a kg.

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OFFICE OF JOINT DIRECTOR
Flood Management Improvement Support Centre,
Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Anisabad, Patna-02
fmiscbihar@gmail.com
SHORT NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION (NIQ)

Letter No.-FMISC/02/2024-Patna/

S.T NIQ NO:- 01/2025-26 ,ANISABAD, PATNA

Sealed Quotations are being invited for submission of rates of following items for budgetary estimate for **Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning & Maintenance of Hardware & Software for Augmentation & Upgradationof Departmental Data Centre at Flood Management Improvement Support Centre (FMISC)**.

Description Of Work	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning & Maintenance of Hardware & Software for Augmentation &Upgradation of Departmental Data Centre at Flood Management Improvement Support Centre (FMISC).
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Contact No. & Email ID :	

S. N.	Description of Goods	Warranty (With Annual Technical Support)	Unit	Qty. (A)	Basic Unit Price (B)	GST Amount (C) ₹	Total Amount ₹ (AxB)	Total Amount With GST ₹ (AxB+C)
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1 a	Supply, Installation, Configuration, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance for Upgradation of Existing SAN Storage and as per Technical Specifications	3 Years	Lot	1			–	—
1b	Storage Migration as per Scope Of Work(SOW)	One time	Lot	1				
2a	Supply, Installation, Configuration, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance for Upgradation of Existing Backup Appliance as per Technical Specifications	3 Years	Lot	1			–	—
2b	Storage Migration as per Scope Of Work(SOW)	One Time	Lot	1				
3 a	Supply, Installation, Configuration, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance for upgradation of Existing NAS Storage and as per Technical Specifications	3 Years	Lot	1			–	—
3 b	Storage Migration as per Scope Of Work(SOW)	One Time	Lot	1				
4	Supply, Installation, Configuration, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of Web Application Firewall (WAF)	3 Years	Pcs	2			–	—
5	Supply, Installation, Configuration, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of- DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service)	3 Years	Pcs	2			–	—
6	Supply, Installation, Configuration, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of Security Information and Event Management (Log Server)	3 Years	Pcs	1			–	—
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The submission of Rates under this quotation meant for preparation of budgetary estimate only. Quotation will be accepted by registered post or on official Email id-fmiscbihar@gmail.com or in the office of Joint Director,Flood Management Improvement Support Centre, Water Resource Department, Anisabad, Patna till 04/04/2025,6.00PM .

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Advertisers' Feature

Ugadi: A Celebration of Renewal, Tradition, and Unity

Ugadi, the vibrant and auspicious festival marking the start of the Hindu New Year, will be celebrated on March 30th, 2025. It is celebrated predominantly in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, and Maharashtra, and is considered one of the most significant festivals in the Southern part of India. Ugadi signifies new beginnings, the arrival of spring, and the renewal of both nature and human life.

The name "Ugadi" is derived from two Sanskrit words: "Yuga," which means age or era, and "Adi," meaning the beginning.

The festival thus symbolizes the start of a new age or era in the lives of people. Ugadi corresponds to the first day of the Chaitra month in the Hindu lunar calendar, which marks the arrival of spring—a season of new life, blooming flowers, and fresh growth.

The day also holds a deep spiritual significance, symbolizing a fresh start, a chance for new opportunities, and a time for self-reflection. Ugadi is not merely a celebration of a new year; it is a season of renewal, introspection, and an intense connection with the roots.

The festival in all its forms encourages one to gather, enjoy the intricacies of life, and welcome the possibilities of a new year.

It is not just a celebration of time, but a celebration of life itself, where people are encouraged to let go of negativity, embrace good fortune, and connect with their spiritual roots.

With the arrival of Ugadi 2025, it shall again be a season of happiness, spirituality, and harmony within families and communities in South India.

Celebrate Ugadi in Style with Neev's Latex Carnival 2025

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With factory-direct pricing and expert guidance at every store, now is the perfect time to invest in health, wellness, and uninterrupted sleep.

Visit your nearest Neev Mattress Experience Centre today and bring home the gift of luxurious rest this Ugadi!

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RISE	06:17	SET 18:31
RISE	06:45	SET 19:31
MONDAY, MAR. 31		
RISE	06:16	SET 18:31
RISE	07:32	SET 20:33

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
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Mysuru	36	21
Bengaluru	34	23

Bengaluru Today
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

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Tamil play to be staged

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ragasyam Parama Ragasyam, a play, to be staged at Krishnadeva Raya Kalamandira in Malleswaram on Saturday at 5 p.m.

SEP Commission misses final report submission deadline

Sources say that the presentation of the report may be delayed by a couple of months

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Commission for the State Education Policy (SEP), which was supposed to submit its final report to the State government by February, has missed the deadline with the end of March approaching. In fact, it has not even submitted a request to the government yet for the extension of term required for submission of the report.

Sources said that the submission of the report may be delayed by a couple of months, and it is doubtful that the SEP will be implemented in the State from the academic year 2025-26.

As per its manifesto for the 2023 Assembly elections, the Congress government decided to withdraw the National Education

Sukhadeo Thorat

Policy (NEP-2020) and constituted a separate Commission headed by eminent educationist and former Chairman of University Grant Commission (UGC) Sukhadeo Thorat to formulate a State Education Policy on October 12, 2023.

The Commission constituted 30 theme-based task forces, including 17 for higher education and 13 for school education, to comprehensively study and submit reports on different aspects of education in the State. It had announced that the SEP report will be submitted to the government within five months, by the end of February 2024, and again by the end of April 2024. However, the Commission submitted an interim report to the government in May 2024, and said that the final report would be submitted by August 2024.

Following the recommendations of the interim report, the State government withdrew the four-year honours degree, which was part of the NEP, from the academic year 2024-25.

Instead, it reinstated the three-year degree programmes which existed until the 2021-22 academic year. Other measures were also taken, including cancelling the multi-entry and multi-exit system. The Commission, which failed to submit its final report in August, had submitted a request to the government in September 2024, seeking an additional time of six months. The government, which accepted this request, had given time till February 2025 to submit the report, which did not happen.

"The work of consolidating the opinions of experts and other stakeholders is under way, and it will take another couple of months to submit the final report," said a member of the Commission.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher Education, said, "I discussed the progress of the SEP report with the Commission recently. The work of translating the report into Kannada is going on. The Commission will submit the final report soon."

Admit the economically weak as in-patients till their health investigations are over: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Concerned about the financial burden on patients from economically disadvantaged background who travel long distances for medical check-ups, Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development Sharan Prakash Patil has directed officials at the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO) to admit such patients as in-patients in hospital wards until their final health investigation reports are issued.

Although this directive was first given during a recent review meeting at KMIO, it was officially confirmed and implemented during Mr. Patil's visit to the institute on Friday.

During the review, the Minister questioned why the hospital's bed occupancy was below 70%, despite the high influx of patients daily. Officials explained that beds were allotted only after a final diagnosis, leaving patients without accommodation during the waiting period between initial diagnosis and the issuance of their final health reports. In response, Mr. Patil instructed KMIO to change its policy and admit patients into wards during this interim period. The Minister emphasised that many patients at KMIO come from economically weaker backgrounds and cannot afford private accommodation in Bengaluru while awaiting their reports. "This facility may not be necessary for those residing in and around Bengaluru, but for patients travelling from remote areas, especially northern Karnataka, it is essential," Mr. Patil said.

Since final reports can take about two days to be issued, a consent form will be provided to those who wish to be admitted as in-patients during this period.

THE HINDU
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PUBLIC NOTICE
[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

Sri Madegowda S/o Late Sottegowda has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Commercial"** (Earlier changed from Government for Agriculture zone to Commercial Kalyana Mantapa and converted from revenue Department) Zone to **"Residential"** purpose under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining to Sy.No:310/2 extent of 0Acre-24Guntas, Sy.No:311/2A2 extent of 0Acre-17Guntas, Sy.No:311/2B2 extent of 0Acre-01Guntas, Sy.No:311/4 extent of 0Acre-08Guntas and Sy.No:311/5 extent of 0Acre-01½Guntas totally measuring 01Acre-11½Guntas of Chamanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Maddur Taluk, Mandya District. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) By developing the layout in the above said land, the poor and middle Class people will get the sites for reasonable price.
2) During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for Local labourers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Layout in the above said land.
4) By formation of planned layout, the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, parks etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/JA/5964/2024-24

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, K R Pura Division,
Old Madras Road, K R Pura, Bengaluru - 560 036
No: EE/KRP/TND/14/2024-25 **Date: 28.03.2025**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short Term Tender Notification) (Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer (K.R. Pura) invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table given below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the table in appropriate class registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike/CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/any State or Central Govt. Organisations.

Sl No.	Name of the works
	Estimate for the work of Maintenance of Existing Borewells Motor Pump and Panel Boards Repairs to Water Supply system in
1.	Horamavu Village Partial, Horamavu Agara Partial, Geddalahalli, Kothanuru, K Narayanapura, Nagareshwara, Nagenahalli, Kyalasanahalli Surrounding Extension area in Horamavu Ward No-87 Est Cost: ₹.80.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.1,60,000/-
2.	Horamavu Village Partial, Horamavu Agara Partial, Babasabpalya, Chalakere Villages Surrounding Extension area in Chelekere Ward No-86 Est Cost: ₹.55.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.1,10,000/-
3.	Kalkere, Channasandra, Kanakanagara, Banjara Layout Surrounding area in Kalkere Ward No-88 Est Cost: ₹.55.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.1,10,000/-
	Estimate for the work of Sinking of New Borewells and Providing Submersible Motor Pumpset, GI Pipes, Submersible Cable PVC Pipe line and Accesssories and redrilling of existing Borewells and Replacement of Submersible Motor Pumpset and Accessories in.
4.	Kempegowda Layout, Balaji Layout, CSI Layout, Patel Ramaiah Layout, Munianjinappa Layout, Anjinappa Layout, Kyalasanahalli Sai Layout, Geddalahalli, Vinayaka Layout, Anjanadri Layout, B.D.S Garden Banjara Layout, Hoysalanagara, Horamavu Village, Horamavu Agara, Geddalahalli, K Narayanapura, Kyalasanahalli, Kothanuru, Kyalasanahalli Villages & Surrounding area layouts in Horamavu Ward No-87 Est Cost: ₹.100.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.2,00,000/-
5.	Geddalahalli Vinayaka Layout, Rajanna Layout, Vaddarapalya Cauvery Nagara, Anjanadhri Layout, Prakruthi Township Meghanapalya, Chalakere, Babusapalya, Bank Avenue Papaiah Layout, Munireddy Layout, Anjinappa Layout, Ashirvad Colony, Narayanareddy Layout & Chelekere Babusapalya & Horamavu Village & Surrounding Layouts Areas in Chalakere Ward No-86. Est Cost: ₹.80.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.1,60,000/-
6.	K Channasandra, NRI Layout, MR Riches Garden, Manjunathanagara, Punyabhooomi Layout, Andra Colony, Sankalpa Layout, Kanakagiri Layout, Riches Royal Layout, Green Garden Golden Enclave Annayappa Layout, Kalkere & K. Channasandra Village Surrounding Extension area in Kalkere Ward No-88 Est Cost: ₹.80.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.1,60,000/-
	Estimate for the work Supply of Watermens through Outsourcing Agencies for Water Supply Facilities to through Existing Borewells to Publics of
7.	Horamavu Village Partial, Horamavu Agara Partial, Babasapalya, Chalakere Villages and Surrounding Extension Area in Chalakere Ward No-86 (For 5 Months) Est Cost: ₹.25.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.50,000/-
8.	Horamavu Village Partial, Horamavu Agara Partial, Geddalahalli, Kothanuru, K.Narayanapura, Nagareshwara Nagenahalli, Kyalasanahalli Surrounding Extension Area in Horamavu Ward No-87 (For 8 Months) Est Cost: ₹.40.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.80,000/-
9.	Kalkere, Channasandra, Kanakanagara, Banjara Layout Surrounding area in Kalkere Ward No-88 (For 6 Months) Est Cost: ₹.29.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.58,000/-

Calendar of Events : (1) Last Date for Tender Queries & Clarifications is **01.04.2025** upto **4:00** pm. (2) Pre-bid meeting will be held on **02.04.2025** at **11:30** am. (3) Last Date Submission of Tender Documents on or before **07.04.2025** at **4:00** Pm. (4) Technical Bids will be opened on **09.04.2025** at **4:00** pm.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer - K R Pura Division

Government of Punjab
Municipal Corporation Ludhiana
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS (World Bank-Goods)
NIT No. 341/SE(TIC), dated 28.03.2025

The department of Municipal Corporation Ludhiana invites online double bids for **"Digitization of official records of MC Ludhiana to ensure robust record keeping and easy availability of record."** (RFB No. IN-LMC-482443-NC-RFB)" (1st time) as per schedule given below:-
Closing date & time : 12.05.2025 up to 05:00 PM
For details log on to: **eproc.punjab.gov.in**
Note: Detail of works/goods, other terms & conditions & tender document any corrigendum/addendum to the tender notice shall be published on above website only.

Superintending Engineer (TIC)
NA/12/29030/2023/43066 **Municipal Corporation Ludhiana**

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(YERAMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)
(A JOINT VENTURE COMPANY OF KPCL & BHEL)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582
No.: EE(MSP)/YTPS/24-25/357 Date: 21.03.2025

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

RPCL invites bids from reputed agencies for the through KPP portal procurement for the following at YTPS.
(1) KPCL/2024-25/IND1542, 21.03.2025 for **HVAC cooling tower spares. (2)** KPCL/2024-25/IND1524/Call-2, 21.03.2025 for **Various types of valves for YTPS. (3)** KPCL/2024-25/IND1485/Call-2, 21.03.2025 for **160mm dia PVC threaded endcaps required for IDCT maintenance. (4)** KPCL/2024-25/IND1452/Call-3, 15.03.2025 for **WT system support Hydraulic valves. (5)** KPCL/2024-25/IND1487/Call-2, 15.03.2025 for **Valves for mulsifyer system. (6)** KPCL/2024-25/IND1507/Call-2, 15.03.2025 for **Bends for HVAC & EPS systems.**
Last date & time for bid submission: **for Sl. No. 1: 08.04.2025, 16.00 hrs. for Sl. No. 2 & 3: 03.04.2025, 16.00 hrs., for Sl. No. 4: 02.04.2025, 16.00 hrs. for Sl. No. 5 & 6: 01.04.2025, 16.00 hrs.** Other details can be accessed from Karnataka e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer (MSP), YTPS, RPCL, Yeramarus-584134, Raichur. Mob: 9480682892, e-mail: **eemsprpcl@gmail.com / support@eporchelpdesk.com www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ
ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು (ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾಂಗ)ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಶಿವಗಂಗೋತ್ರಿ,
ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–577007, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 6363463991
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ದಾವಿ:ಪವಿ:67:2024–25: 4705 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.03.2025

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ Tender No: DU/2024-25/IND0022/CALL-2

ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯದ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ ಖಾಲಿ ಉತ್ತರ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಅರ್ಹರಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ:15.04.2025ರೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ/ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು(ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾಂಗ). ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ, ಶಿವಗಂಗೋತ್ರಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–ಇವರಿಂದ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +916363463991 ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ http://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/886/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

ಸಹಿ/–ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು
(ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾಂಗ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.
Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979 &Endst. No.MCI-37(1)(Recog.-18)(UG)/2017-Med./109629,Dt: 06/05/2019
DIRECTOR: 8147796529 PRINCIPAL :8147796527
CAO:8147796526 PA : 8147796539. e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcballari@gmail.com, website :https://bmcrcballari.karnataka.gov.in principal: bmcrcballari@gmail.com
No: BMCRC/SUP/TEND/LIBRARY FURNITURES/18/2024-25/336 **Date:27.03.2025**

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for Supply of Medical Books Under SCP/TSP Scheme to BMCRC, Ballari under Two bid system through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** of Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested bidders are request to submit Tender in above said e-portal on or before **28.04.2025 up to 5.00 PM.** The total approximate cost of tender is **Rs.4.20Cr.** Further details may be obtained in the above said website and **www.vims.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/1085/KSMCA/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Joint Commissioner, East Zone, Mayohall premises, Residency Road, Bengaluru-560001

No. JC/E/TEND/06/2024-25 Date: 26.03.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
Two Cover System (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Joint Commissioner, East Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimate Cost (in Rs.)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Collection of Parking fees from Dispensary road (OPH Road) to Kamaraj Road (Call-3)	49,27,500/-	98,550/-
2	Collection of Parking fees from Miller Road (Saffina Complex) to Chandrika Junction (Call-3)	54,20,250/-	1,08,405/-
3	Collection of Parking fees at Wood Street & Castle Street (Call-3)	44,34,750/-	88,695/-
4	Collection of Parking fees from Magrath Road (Shoppers stop) to Hosmat Hospital (Call-3)	29,56,500/-	59,130/-
5	Collection of Parking fees from Langford Road (SAI) to Nanjappa Circle (Call-3)	27,10,125/-	54,203/-
6	Collection of Parking fees from Main Guard Road (Saffina Signal) to Dispensary Road (Call-3)	73,91,250/-	1,47,825/-
7	Collection of Parking fees of Dickenson Road (Call-3)	49,27,500/-	98,550/-
8	Collection of Parking fees from Crescent Road (M.G.Road) to Resthouse Road (Call-3)	22,17,375/-	50,000/-

Period of tenders : **1 year for each work.**
Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 01.04.2025. (2)** Date of Pre-bid meeting : **08.04.2025 at 3.00 pm. (3)** Last Date of receipt of tenders: **16.04.2025 upto 4.00 pm. (4)** Date of opening of technical bid**: 17.04.2025 at 4.30 pm.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Joint Commissioner, East Zone, BBMP

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
www:eepwdmys21@gmail.com
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ನಂ: 0821–2420810

ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ:23/2024–25 2ನೇ ಕರೆ ದಿ: 19.03.2025 & 30/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.03.2025

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರಿಂದ ಈ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಅ) ನಂ.1 ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ ಮೈಸೂರು, ಆ)ನಂ.2 ವಿಶೇಷ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ ಮೈಸೂರು ಹಾಗೂ ಇ) ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು 07 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ:23/2024–25 2ನೇ ಕರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 1 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: 30/2024–25 ರಲ್ಲಿ 06 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು) ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4ರ ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ನಿಯಮ 2000 ರಂತೆ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ 1ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (viz https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ:23/2024–25 2ನೇ ಕರೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ 1 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ದಿ:19.03.2025 ರಿಂದ 07.04.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17:00ರ ವರೆಗೆ, ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: 30/2024–25 ರಲ್ಲಿ 05 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದಿ:25.03.2025 ರಿಂದ 15.04.2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17:00ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ದಿ:29.03.2025 ರಿಂದ 22.04.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17:00ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.600.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ.7.32 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.995.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ.12.02 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ:23/2024–25 2ನೇ ಕರೆ ದಿ:19.03.2025ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ದಿ: 28.03.2025 ರಂದು ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ 30/2024–25 ದಿ: 24.03.2025 ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ದಿ: 05.04.2025 ರಂದು ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00ಕ್ಕೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಬೇಕಾದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಅಥವಾ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR-DD-MYS/1513/KSMCA-1143/2024-25

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು – 10.
(Ph. No: 0821-2979772 E-mail:khsdrp.divmys@gmail.com)
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆಕುಕ/ಇಂ.ವಿ./ಕಾ.ಅ/ಮೈ/ಸಇ–4/ಟೆಂಡರ್–32/2024–25 ದಿ: 26.03.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ Providing Patients waiting Lounge, Vehicle Parking Shed and other allied works to TLH K.R.Nagar, Mysuru (ರೂ.100.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲಾದ ಮೂರನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 15.04.2025 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. **2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್): 16.04.2025 ರಂದು 16.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (Through KPPP) https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in ದಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. **ಸೂಚನೆ: 1)** ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ/ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. **2)** ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸವಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.) ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR-DD-MYS/1506/KSMCA-1133/2024-25

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THE HINDU

Shared walls, cool interiors

The soaring temperature highlights the need for heat protection. There are simple, sustainable solutions that can reduce indoor temperatures and improve comfort in urban homes

COVER

Sathya Prakash Varanashi

Bengaluru recorded more than 35°C on March 14. Can't bear the heat? Try shading your walls!

For a modern urban dweller, it may be unusual to see houses clustered closely together, like a herd of sheep, in older villages, hillside settlements, or medieval heritage towns. Similarly, take children to a zoo, and they may notice how several animal species sleep one over the other in a single mass. Any connection between these two phenomena – one human-made, the other an instinctive animal behaviour?

Yes, there is. Closely built structures mutually shade each other's walls, keeping interiors cool. The shared walls act as thermal mass, further insulating the spaces inside. Similarly, animals that huddle together share body heat in colder climates while also gaining psychological comfort year-round. Ultimately, it's all about walls and skins.

Walls form the largest surface area of a building, more than floors, roofs, or support structures. They define the visible elevation, accommodate windows, and house storage units, and invite varied decorations. With our frontal vision, humans tend to focus on walls more than any other building element, even though we also perceive entire interiors and external views.

Just like traditional sloping tiled roofs that extend beyond exterior walls, the sunshades block direct sunlight.

What remains invisible to us is how much direct and diffused solar heat walls absorb – primarily through light but also via contact with hot air. The combined effects of convection and conduction gradually heat the building's interiors, especially today, when setback rules prevent structures from being shaded by neighbouring buildings or trees.

Modern architecture has replaced small wooden windows, or even the tiny apertures of historic buildings, with large glass windows. While they provide expansive views, they are often covered with curtains, another modern trend!

Glass, a high conductor of heat and light, turns our interiors into brightly lit, overheated spaces, akin to microwaves.

The problem itself suggests the solution: prevent direct sunlight from reaching the outer surface of walls. Planting trees near walls is one option, but they require space, may not provide dense foliage, could obstruct views, and might damage structures with their roots.

A simpler and more effective solution is to install continuous chajjas (sunshades) along walls, even where there are no windows. Just like traditional sloping tiled roofs that extend beyond exterior walls, these sunshades block direct sunlight, living up to their name. This small addition – applicable to both new and existing buildings – can offer protection for a lifetime.

Looking for a temporary fix to beat the summer heat? If outdoor space permits, shade windows from the outside by hanging a mat or thick curtain about two feet away from the window. This setup allows shutters to remain open while ensuring constant air movement between the shade and the window, reducing heat gain.

Complex construction problems often have simple, sustainable solutions.

(The author is an ecological architect, urban designer, and heritage conservationist in Bengaluru.)

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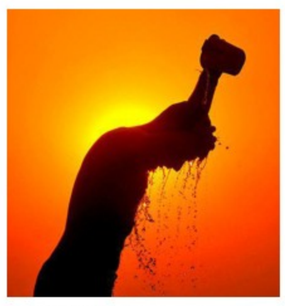
Bengaluru likely to see warmer days



The maximum temperature recorded in the city was 34.1 degrees Celsius on Friday. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The maximum temperature in the next few days is likely to increase by two to three degrees Celsius in south interior Karnataka.

"For the next seven days in south Interior Karnataka, including Bengaluru, the maximum temperature will be around 35 to 37 degrees Celsius and in north interior Karnataka, including Kalaburagi, the maximum temperature will be 40 to 42 degrees Celsius and in coastal districts, the maximum temperature will be 34 to 35 degrees Celsius," said C.S. Patil, scientist and Director, IMD Bengaluru.

On Friday, the maximum temperature recorded in Bengaluru was 34.1 degrees Celsius and the minimum was 23.3 degrees Celsius.

Mr. Patil added that in the next seven days, a few places in Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, Mysuru, Hassan, Chamarajanagar, Dakshina Kannada, and Udupi districts are likely to see scattered rainfall.

Move to include three rural police stations in city commissionerate

The recent State Budget announced that the number of police divisions in Bengaluru will be increased from 8 to 11

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Officials say the population density in police station limits has gone up, and the nature of crimes has also changed. FILE PHOTO

A proposal is pending before the State police to merge three rural police stations around Bengaluru city, namely Kumbalgod in Ramanagara district, Avalahalli and Hebbagodi in Bengaluru Rural district, into the City Police Commissionerate, as these areas have mostly urbanised, and the nature of crimes has also changed.

The proposal also includes merging urbanised parts of Madanayakanahalli and Vishwanathapura police station limits, both in Bengaluru Rural district, with the adjoining city police stations.

This comes close on the heels of Talaghattapura and Byadarahalli police stations being added to the city from the Ramanagara district for similar reasons.

The recent State Budget announced that the number of police divisions in the city will be increased from eight to eleven.

"The reorganisation of the Bengaluru City Police Commissionerate is being worked out, and these proposals will likely be accepted by the government, and we will include these three police stations and parts of two others into the commissionerate," City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said.

A senior police officer, supervising some of these police stations presently, said that the population density in these police station limits had shot up, and the nature of these areas has also changed. "There are more people from the affluent class, commercial activities have increased, and land values have shot up. These factors have brought urban crimes like property offences like robbery, mobile snatchings, ATM thefts, two-wheeler thefts, and rowdies involved in real estate dealings to these areas. Even the number of narcotics and cyber crimes being registered in these stations has also increased. Rural police stations have lower strength and are not equipped to handle such a nature of crimes," he said.

Lobby

Meanwhile, sources said that there has been a lobby both within the State police and from local politicians to include more police stations in the City Police Commissionerate. These include Vijayapura, Rajanukunte in the north, Bannerghatta, Jigani, Surya City, and Sarjapura to the south and southeast of the city. These police station limits have also mostly been urbanised, and some of these gram panchayats and town municipal councils like Sarjapura and Jigani are also proposed to be added to Bengaluru's civic limits under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024. However, sources said that there has been no formal proposal about these police stations, at least as yet.

Udupi man accused of kidnapping college girl

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Earlier, her father had filed a complaint against the man for harassing her when she was a minor

The Udupi Town police have registered a case against a man of Kunjibettu in Udupi on the charge of kidnapping a 20-year-old engineering student, after her father from Kodavoor filed a police complaint.

In the complaint filed on March 20, Godwin Devdas, 53, said his daughter studied at an engineering college in Moodbidri. On March 20, she got down from the college bus at Kukkikatte junction in Udupi at 6 p.m. While she was walking towards her aunt's house, one person named Akram Mohammed allegedly kidnapped her on his bike. A bus driver, who saw it, called Mr. Devdas and informed him.

Mr. Devdas said he had filed a complaint against Mohammed accusing him of harassing her daughter when she was a minor. He alleged that Mohammed kidnapped his daughter now as revenge. The police registered his complaint filed on March 20 under Section 140 (3) of the BNS.

Talking to reporters in Udupi on Friday, Mr. Devdas said his daughter is a victim of 'love jihad'. Mohammed got in touch with his daughter through instagram and has been in contact with her for the past five years. Mohammed used to harass his daughter by threatening to release their intimate photos on social media, he alleged.

He also accused Mohammed of preventing his daughter from socialising with her friends.

He further accused Mohammed of being addicted to drugs and alleged that he was associated with a criminal gang.

Accusing the Udupi police of not taking further action on his complaint filed a week ago, Mr. Devdas said the police told him that they cannot do anything in case of two consenting adults.

The police showed him a video of the couple living happily. "But I am concerned about my daughter's safety," he said. Mr. Devdas has filed a *habeas corpus* writ petition before the High Court seeking direction to the Udupi Town police to produce his daughter before the High Court. This petition came up for hearing before a Division Bench comprising judges V. Kameswar Rao and T.M. Nadaf on Friday, and it was adjourned to April 4.

Meanwhile, Mohammed has submitted an application for registration of their marriage under the Special Marriage Act.

He has also filed an application under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita seeking anticipatory bail, before the Udupi Principal District and Sessions court. The court has posted it to April 2 for objections of public prosecutor.

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Last date for submission of bid is **28.04.2025 IST 15:00** Hrs, for details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

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1. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಯಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೌಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ :26.03.2025 ರಿಂದ 02.04.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
2. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 02.04.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
3. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕಃ 04.04.2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಕ್ಕೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಸಂ.2ನೇ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
DIPR/CP/5960/Zen/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Hassan
IFT No.28/2024-25, Dated: 24.03.2025

Short term tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in two cover system through KPPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Hassan District works as per SBD-KW-4 tender amount is Rs.400.17 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 01.04.2025 upto 5.00 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPPP portal and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Hassan.
ಮಾಸಾಸಂ/ಇ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/1102/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/TZB/SEE(O)/AEE-4/24-25/20391 Date: 27.03.2025

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Mode Only)

KPTCL invites bid against Enquiry **No.KPTCL/CEE/TR/BZ/C-Type Wedge Connectors-CEP-125/2024-25** for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of **C-Type Wedge Connectors** of various sizes for replacing weak terminal and clamps at various 220/66/11KV and 66/11KV Sub-stations coming under TL&SS (Operation) Division Malur, Transmission (Operation) Zone, Bengaluru conforming to KPTCL Technical Specifications, F.O.R.D. at Store/site basis, including insurance and transportation.

The bids will be received through electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging into E-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **05.04.2025**. Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy., Transmission (Operation) Zone, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-09.
Ph No. : 080-22282601 / 602

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, GRBCC Divn.4, Chikodi.
Ph :08338 - 272485 Email :ee_knnlgrbc4ckd@rediffmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through kpp portal only)

Tender Notification No:KNNL/GRBCC-4/Tender/2024-25/31 Date: 25-03-2025

Tender is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore for the work mentioned below. The blank tender document can be downloaded from kppp portal of Government of Karnataka. (https://www.kppp. karnataka.gov.in).
Indent No:Two Cover System:General:Indent No. 2704/CALL-2, 2705/CALL-2, 2708/CALL-2, 2745/CALL-2 ST reserved: Indent No. 2753/CALL-2, Approximate amount put to tender :42.31/- to 152.33 lakhs, EMD Amount:42,400/- to 2,28,500/-, Last date & Time for tender quarries/ Clarifi cations:29-03-2025, Up to 17.00 hrs, Pre-bid meeting in the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL GRBCC Divn No.4 CHIKODI:01-04-2025, at 11.30 hrs,The last date & Time for receipt of tenders:03-04-2025 Up to 16.00 hrs,Date of Opening of tenders (Two Cover System):Technical Bid: 04-04-2025 Up to 16.30 hrs, Financial bid: 05-04-2025 Up to 16.30 hrs.

Further information can be had from under signed from the following Nos 08338-272485 & from e-portal (https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) during office hours.

The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- (S.S Karagar), Executive Engineer, KNNL, GRBCC Division No.4, Chikodi
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-2038/KSMCA/2024-25

Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha
No. 113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bangalore-560 004
Ph. No.: 080-22410151/22429151, 9900569151
E-mail: sssbn1vvp@sreenidhibank.com

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Smt. Sukanya .G and Sri. Raju. K.S

Sale of Immovable Property Mortgaged to Bank Under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Whereas **Smt.Sukanya G W/o Raju K.S and Sri. Raju K.S S/o Shivanna both are residing at No.227/1, 4th Cross, Lalbagh Road, K.S. Garden Sudhamanagar, Bangalore-560027** have borrowed monies from Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, V V Puram Branch, #113, 1st Floor, R V Road, V V Puram, Bangalore – 560004 and they owes a sum of **Rs.13,45,022/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Twenty Two Only) and Rs.8,94,068/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Sixty Eighty Only) as on 28/03/2025** and further interest @ 13.50% and 12.50% per annum respectively and costs there on.

Whereas the Authorised Officer of the Bank has issued notice under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and thereafter has taken possession of the properties owned and mortgaged to the bank by **Smt. Sukanya G W/o Raju K S residing at No. 227/1, 4th Cross, Lalbagh Road, K.S. Garden Sudhamanagar, Bangalore-560027** and decided to sell the property, described in Schedule "A" herein below, on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' under rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

DETAILS OF SALE: Place of Auction: Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, #113, R.V. Road, V.V. Puram, Bangalore-560004.

Date/Day & time of auction: 07/05/2025, Wednesday at 11:30 AM

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY
Schedule

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing No.349/F, carved out in the land bearing Sy.no.31 of Kodigehalli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru. Measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet totally in all measuring 1200 Sq.ft with all rights and appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the **East by:** Site No.349/E, **West by:** Government Land, **North by:** Road; **South by:** Site No.348/D.

Reserve Price: Rs.30,70,000/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Seventy Thousand only)

Terms & Conditions of Auction:

1. For participating in the auction, the intending bidders have to deposit 10% of reserve price of the property by Bankers cheque/Demand Draft favouring the Authorised Officer, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, Payable at Bangalore which is refundable, if the bid is not successful.
2) The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour and the balance within 15 days. Payment to be made only in the form of cash or bankers cheque/ DD drawn in favour of the Authorised Officer, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha.
3) Incase the successful bidder fails to deposit 25% of bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour and the balance amount within 15 days, the entire deposit made by the bidder shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice.
4) The successful bidder would bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance such as Stamp duty, Registration fee etc., as applicable as per law.
5) The Authorised officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Govt. or anybody in respect of the property under sale.
6) The Authorised Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn/postpone the auction without assigning any reason therefore.
7) The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank.
8) **The auction of the property will be made as per the above order or at the discretion of the Authorised Officer.**
9) For inspection of property, the intending bidders may contact, **Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha**, V.V Puram Branch, #113, 1st Floor, R.V Road, V.V Puram Bangalore – 560004 during the office hours or may contact at telephone No. **080 22410151 / 22429151, 9900569151.**

Date : 28/03/2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bengaluru Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
O&M Circle, Chikkamagaluru-577101
Phone: 08262-295513 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
No. MESCOM/SEE/OMC/CKM/EE/AEE/2024-25/I/132679 Dated: 05.03.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP Mode Only)

MESCOM invites the tender for the work of **Electrification of Madlubylu, Acharishale, Kitleguli, Jogithota, Horasige, Halmakki Habitations of Haralane Village, Agalagandi Village Panchayath and Yadagunda, Ammadlu Habitations of Megaru Village, Guddethota Village Village Panchayath under TSP Scheme in Jayapura Section, Koppa Sub Division of Koppa Division on "Total Turn Key" Basis.**

The bids will be received through Electronic Tendering Mode only. The details of tender notification can be obtained by logging on to kppp.karnataka.gov.in **on or after 01/04/2025.** Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Ele), O&M Circle, Chikkamagaluru.
DIPR/MNG/1692/MPL/24-25
For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), East Zone, 16th Floor, PU Building, MG Road, Bengaluru.
No: BBMP/EE/ELE/EAST/TEND/16/2024-25 Date: 28-03-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (SHORT TERM)
(Single Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Executive Engineer (Elect), East Zone, invites Tenders in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike / KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any other equivalent Central / State Government organizations on behalf of the commissioner, BBMP for Electrical work as detailed in the table.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works
1	Ward No.: **76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115.** Providing Emergency Electrical repair works to BBMP maternity Homes and BBMP Hospitals coming under Pulakeshinagar, Shivajinagar and Shanthinagar Assembly Constituencies Under POW 2024-25. (Call-3). Amount Put to Tender: **Rs.17.36 Lakhs.** Earnest Money Deposit: **Rs.43,500/-.** Cost of document (Rs.): **KPP Portal**. Period of Completion: **120 days.** Class of Contract: **KCEI/Class II & above.**
2	Ward No.: **108.** Electrical Maintenance to Kallahalli Electrical Crematorium in Ward No.108 Under POW 2024-25. (Call-3). Amount Put to Tender: **Rs.16.94 Lakhs.** Earnest Money Deposit: **Rs.42,500/-.** Cost of document (Rs.): **KPP Portal**. Period of Completion: **365 days.** Class of Contract: **KCEI/Class II & above.**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal Website: **www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** from **29-03-2025 by 16:30 Hrs. 2)** Bids must be submitted online through the KPPP portal Website: **www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** on or before **07-04-2025 by 16:00 Hrs. 3)** Date of opening of tenders: **08-04-2025 at 16.30 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele.), East Zone, BBMP.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general-public that Fox Mandal & Associates, having its office at FM House, 6/12, Primrose Road, Bangalore - 560025, Karnataka, INDIA represented by its Senior Partner Mr. S. T. Prashantha Kumar has been appointed as the Executor of the Will dated 26.10.2017, registered as document No. JAY-3-00340-2017-18 stored in C.D. No. JAYD310 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar. Fox Mandal & Associates is issuing this PUBLIC NOTICE in the capacity of Executor of the aforesaid Will executed by our client late Pulak Chandra Ray.
The Sale Deed dated 24.09.2010, registered as document No. JPN-1-04759-2010-11, stored in C. D. No. JPND80 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, J. P. Nagar, Bangalore pertaining to Flat No. B-304 in the third floor of the multistoried apartment building known as 'ETHER APARTMENTS' PID No.57-267-010 of super built up area of 2,318 Square Feet [Terrace 504 Sq.Ft. + 1814 Sq.Ft. super built up flat-area] [including toilet area of 50 Sq.Ft. being part of the terrace], situated at Sarakki Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South presently at J. P. Nagar, Bangalore is lost in transit. We have also lodged a Police Complaint in this this regard bearing Lost Report No. 1542109/2025 dated 28.03.2025.
If any person come across the lost document, request them to return the same to the undersigned having its office at the below mentioned address within a period of **7 days** from the date of publication hereof.

S. T. Prashantha Kumar, Senior Partner
Fox Mandal & Associates
"FM House" 6/12, Primrose Road
Bengaluru 560 025. Ph: +91 80 2559 5911
e-mail: prashantha.kumar@foxmandal.in
Date: 29.03.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client **Sri. Abhay D Kanchan**, Son of Y.R. Devraj, residing at FF4, Greenary Apartments, No.16, Plain Street, Off Infantry Road, Bangalore – 560001 has lost the Original Gift Deed dated 13.02.2009 executed by Sri. Raju K Kanchan in favour of Sri. Abhay D Kanchan registered as Document No. SHV-1-01578-2008-09, Book1, stored in CD No. SHVD103 in the office of the Senior Sub Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore in respect of 50% share in the Apartment No.FF-4, PID No.78-38-16/10, in the First Floor of the building known as "Greenary Apartments" measuring about 1237 Sq.Feet of SBA together with 702/22420th undivided share, right, title and interest in the property bearing No.16, Plain Street Bangalore. A police complaint dated 27.03.2025 bearing NO.1540795/2025 is lodged in this regard. If any person finds the same may kindly be delivered to the undersigned or to my client. Any person un-authorisly holding the same and dealing with the same in the respect of the above property in any manner, the same will not be binding on my client. In this behalf if any person having any Objections or claims can lodge the same with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within seven days of this Notice. Later on the same will not be entertained and my client proceed to deal with said property as he like.

ADINATH NARDE
Adinath Narde and Revathy Associates
Advocates
No.101, First Floor, "The Presidency", Old No. 1, New No.82, St. Mark's Road, Bangalore-01,
E-mail: adinathnarde@yahoo.co.in
Place: Bangalore Dated: 28.03.2025

The Mysore Paper Mills Ltd
Forest Division, Paper Town, Bhadravati,577302-Karnataka.
CIN L99999KA 1936SGC000173 (03.06.2014) -
Ph: +91-8282-270094/- Fax: +91-8282-270937
Email: dirforestsmpm@gmail.com
Tender No :MPM/FFR/DF/ TA/2024-25/013 Date 26.03.2025

E-Tender Invitation Notice

E-Tender No : MPM/FFR/ DF/TA/24-25/013 Date 26.03.2025
Work Details : Reforestation for 2025 & Maintenance Work for 2024 & 2023 **Last Date For Tender submission :** 26.04.2025 at 5.00 PM **Date of opening of Tender :** 29.04.2025 at 11.00 AM

Tenders are invited for the construction of reforestation groves in the forest of MPM for 2025 and maintenance work for 2024 & 2023, and tenders will be submitted by the tenderers through the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only.

Tender documents will be downloaded from the e-procurement portal/MPM website from 26.03.2025 onwards as per the e-portal rules.

Tenderers who are not registered in the e-procurement portal can register for the tender and participate in the tender. If there are any changes/amendments, it will be published only on the e-procurement portal/MPM website. Our website is www.mpm.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Director (Forest) In-charge
DIPR/smg/ksmca/24-25/187/03/1965

Intercollegiate media fest at Kristu Jayanti

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kristu Jayanti College, an autonomous institution, hosted *ON-REC 2025*, an intercollegiate media fest, on Friday.

The event was graced by Prasad Naik, Editor of Vijay Karnataka Online, as the chief guest, who shared insights into the evolving digital media landscape and emphasized adaptability in the industry. The fest included competitions that blended creative and analytical skills.

Launch of 'Bofors Gate'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Atta Galatta, in collaboration with Juggernaut Books, will launch the book *Bofors Gate: A Journalist's Pursuit of Truth*" by Chitra Subramanian. The event will take place at the Atta Galatta bookstore in Indiranagar on Saturday, at 4.30 p.m.

₹421 cr. collected as green tax in State

Data reveals only ₹51.66 crore of this money has been allocated for environmental conservation and other initiatives

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Over the past five years, the Karnataka Transport Department has collected a total of ₹421.13 crore in 'green tax', a levy aimed at discouraging the use of older, polluting vehicles and promoting environmental conservation. However, data reveals that only ₹51.66 crore of this money has been allocated for environmental conservation and sustainable transport initiatives during this period, raising concerns over fund utilisation.

The green tax is levied on non-transport vehicles older than 15 years at the time of registration renewal, and on transport vehicles older than seven years at the time of fitness certification renewal. According to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy's recent statement in the Legislative Council, owners of two-wheelers are charged ₹250, while those of other personal vehicles pay ₹500. The owners of commercial vehicles are charged ₹200 per annum.

A senior official from the Transport Department said the green tax discourages the use of older non-transport vehicles that contribute to higher emissions. FILE PHOTO

Fund utilisation

Year	Green tax collected (in ₹ lakhs)	Govt allocation for environmental conservation (in ₹ lakhs)
2019 - 20	9,762.49	13.8
2020 - 21	8,764.59	17.6
2021 - 22	9,131.26	895.1
2022 - 23	7,008.69	2,282.1
2023 - 24	7,445.70	1,957.0

Source: Karnataka Transport Department

Despite the significant revenue generated from the green tax, the government's allocation towards environmental conservation has been inconsistent.

Over the last five years, the annual green tax collection has ranged between ₹70.08 crore and ₹97.62 crore, while the allocation for environmental initiatives has been considerably lower. In 2021-22, only ₹8.95 crore was allocated despite collecting ₹91.31 crore in green tax, marking the lowest share of funds being directed towards environmental conservation.

The highest allocation was in 2022-23, when ₹22.82 crore was earmarked, yet this still represented only a fraction of the total revenue collected, which was ₹70.08 crore.

A senior official from the Transport Department said the tax discourages the use of older vehicles that contribute to higher emissions. However, when questioned about the lower allocation of funds for environmental initiatives, the official admitted that previous allocations were lower but claimed that the department has been increasing expenditure in recent years.

"Various awareness campaigns have also been undertaken under this initiative," the official added, without specifying where the funds had been spent.

Experts raise concern

Experts have raised concerns about the under-utilisation of the green tax funds.

"There is a clear mismatch between the green tax collected and the funds allocated for environmental initiatives. If the government is serious about tackling pollution and promoting clean transportation, a higher proportion of the collected revenue must be invested in infrastructure, electric vehicle incentives, and pollution control measures," said transport expert M.N. Srihari.

Despite assurances from the Transport Department that allocations have increased, there is no detailed breakdown of how these funds are being utilised. With the Karnataka government pushing for cleaner transport alternatives and tackling urban pollution, experts argue that the funds collected under the green tax should be more transparently and effectively used.

Former State police chief B.N. Garudachar passes away

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former State Police chief B.N. Garudachar, 96, passed away due to age-related ailments in the wee hours of Friday in Bengaluru. He is survived by two sons, including Chickpet BJP MLA Uday Garudachar, and two daughters.

B.N. Garudachar

Mr. Garudachar was a highly decorated police officer of the State, who also presided over the force in its centenary year in 1985 as its chief. Several retired police officers who worked with him recall him with fondness and admiration.

Born in 1929, in Bindiganavile village, Nagamangala taluk, Mandya, Garudachar lost his father early and struggled hard to finish his education. He finished his post graduation in Hyderabad and initially got a job as an Excise Inspector. He passed civil services and was selected as a Indian Police Service (IPS) officer in 1953 and started his career as Assistant Police Commissioner in Tirunelveli, in today's Tamil Nadu. He joined the Mysore State cadre after the reorganisation of states in 1956.

He had long stints in the city in various capacities including as its commissioner. In 1963, he was appointed the first dedicated Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) of Bengaluru City and is credited with laying a foundation for what is Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) today.

Mr. Garudachar is also credited with the installation of the first traffic signal in Bengaluru at N.R. Square in 1963. He served for eight years as a DCP in Bengaluru and was also SP of Bengaluru district.

Later in 1976, he was appointed the Commissioner of Bengaluru City Police at a time when rowdy gangs led by M.P. Jayaraj and Kotwal Ramachandra were powerful, with political patronage. He is credited for being tough on the underworld, even antagonising the political powers of the day.

798 students graduate at IIMB's 50th convocation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 798 students across different programmes graduated from the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) on Friday during its 50th convocation ceremony.

The degrees were awarded to 18 Doctoral Programme (PhD) students; 80 from Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM); 82 from Executive Post Graduate Programme in Management (EPGP); 72 from Post Graduate Programme in Business Analytics (PGPBA), 529 from the Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP) and 13 from the Post Graduate Programme in Public Policy and Management (PGPPM). In PGPPM, while 10 students received the PGPPM degree, three received the diploma.

Rank holders at the IIMB convocation in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

One PhD scholar received awards for excellence in research, while gold medals were awarded for Best All Round Performance, First Rank and Second Rank. This year, a total of eight students secured gold medals, including one student who won two medals.

S. Somanath, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai Professor and former ISRO Chairman, who delivered the special address during the ceremony, said, "The future is faster than you think, and the world's biggest problems are its biggest opportunities as well. And we can solve the biggest challenges with the help of technology, at the same time being aware of its impact on life and society."

"Technological evolution is now global and exponential, with sensors, AI, robotics, virtual reality, blockchain, etc. With all these, we are reinventing the business model," he added.

Women achievers share their stories

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Arantxa Sangma, who graduated from IIMB on Friday, hails from a small town named Tura in Meghalaya. Her journey from the remote town of Northeastern India to one of the top business schools in the country is a testament to her determination. "My graduation from IIMB is a milestone that still feels unreal," Ms. Sangma said, adding, "Where I grew up, not many people talked about the IIMs, and I never imagined I would end up at one. It was not part of the dream because it did not even feel like an option."

After graduating from the NIT Silachar, Ms. Sangma got a job at a multinational professional services network and . That was where she learned more about the significance of MBA programmes and IIMs and then, she started working towards securing an admission at one of the IIMs."I was raised by a single mother, and growing up, things were never easy. Resources were limited, and there were challenges at every turn. But my mother taught me resilience, and I learned to make the most of whatever opportunities came my way," she said.

She further said, "Today, I feel grateful to be one of the few from my town to have earned an MBA from an IIM. I hope my story helps others to tend their dreams step by step, and see how they take you further than you ever imagined."

The newly graduated batch of this year had many such women who came from diverse backgrounds and made the most of their time at the business school while also changing the trajectory of their careers.

At 39 years old, nearly 15 years after she started working, Priyaa, who graduated from the one-year MBA for Experienced Professionals, returned to a college campus. "As a Senior Manager, I aspired to transition into senior leadership roles and eventually become a CEO. My passion for learning and growing as a leader motivated me to pursue the EPGP," she shared.

"My experience and maturity helped me navigate MBA life with ease, without stress or pressure. For me, this journey was not just about career growth but also personal enrichment. Age was never a barrier; in fact, it was an advantage," she added.

Couples who crossed the finish line together while being apart

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

Pawan Gupta and Sangita Bhakat first met in 2018 while working at a public sector undertaking. A few years later, their hunger to learn and grow led them to trade comfortable jobs for demanding MBA schedules. Mr. Gupta chose a one-year MBA programme at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), while Ms. Bhakat chose to pursue a two-year PGDBA at IIM Calcutta.

Through late-night calls amidst submission deadlines, they continued to stay connected while living apart.

"We are crossing the finish line—together," said Mr. Gupta. Echoing his excitement, Ms. Bhakat added, "We have done it side by side, and that makes every challenge worthwhile." The couple wants to take up a career in technology after their graduation.

As the IIMB celebrated its 50th convocation on Friday, many such stories of couples graduating from different IIMs came forth.

Saurabh Arya had worked for 16 years before he joined the PGPEM programme at IIMB in 2023. One year later, his wife Nimisha Sut, who also wanted to enhance her professional trajectory got an opportunity to join a one-year PG course at IIM Ahmedabad.

"For my studies, I didn't have to leave my job or my home. I didn't have to change my city or stay away from my family. None of this was true for my wife if she had to go ahead with this opportunity. It was a much bigger change for her and for our family," Mr. Arya recalls.

The couple also had the challenge of convincing their 7-year-old daughter that her mother was going to be away for a year. But they decided to go ahead for a better future.

"Now, as we reflect upon the last couple of years, it has been a wonderful journey overall. We both were on beautiful campuses, met wonderful people, and learnt from the best in the industry. And destiny had a beautiful plan; we received our MBA degrees from the same person, Dr. Somnath (former ISRO chairman), in consecutive days, though 1500 km apart," Mr. Arya shared.

Shivangi Rajora, who completed her PhD in Public Policy, first met Ashish Singh Bhandari, who did his PhD in Operations Management, during her first year in IIMB when he helped her get a grasshopper out of her room. Their bond grew as they spent their evenings playing squash, sipping tea, and talking about different things. They decided to get married during the final year.

"The first time we seriously discussed marriage was in the final year of our PhD, and it felt like the most natural decision—an obvious step forward in a journey we had already been sharing," shared Ms. Rajora.

From Page One

Husband of city murder victim tries to end life, held in Satara

When Rakesh regained consciousness, a team from the Bengaluru city police spoke to him and he allegedly confessed to the crime. He had reportedly tried to end his life before the police could reach him.

Marital dispute

His father, Rajendra, speaking to media persons in Maharashtra, said Rakesh had called him, confessed to his crime, and said he was also ending his life. "I asked him not to end his life and appealed to him to come home and said we will go to the police station and deal with the case," he said, adding that even before his son reached home, he had informed the local police of the case.

He said Rakesh and Gauri were first cousins but were dealing with marital discord and having frequent fights. He never thought it would lead to such a tragedy, he said.

"He is under stress and is being treated as an inpatient. He has been detained. Once he is discharged, we will arrest him and bring him to Bengaluru for further probe. Only then can we question him in detail and the motive for the murder and its sequence of events can be established," said Sarah Fathima, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South East Division), Bengaluru.

Meanwhile, police sources said Rakesh is suspected to have killed his wife in a fit of rage, on the night of March 25. He later tried to shift the body out of the house, to be disposed of in a suitcase, but failed, forcing him to abandon it and flee, the police suspect.

(Those having suicidal thoughts can seek help from Arogya Sahayavani Ph: 104)

'No evidence that DGP arranged police protocol assistance'

Basavaraj, head constable, International Airport Police, who provided protocol services to Ranya Rao on March 3, had in his statement to the DRI claimed that like many other senior police officers did, he had been asked by Mr. Rao to assist his family members by providing protocol assistance. The sources said he made the same statement before the Gaurav Gupta Committee as well.

However, Mr. Rao denied giving any such instructions in his statement to the committee, the sources said.

The committee reportedly said there was no concrete evidence to say Mr. Rao had asked Basavaraj to provide protocol services to Ranya Rao.

Not the reason

Meanwhile, the Gaurav Gupta Committee report also reportedly said that the police protocol assistance given to Ranya Rao was not the reason for her not being checked at the airport earlier.

The report said that the protocol provided to even eligible dignitaries did not exempt them from Customs or security checks at airports and Ranya Rao being checked and caught on March 3 was itself an indication of the same, the sources pointed out.

INBRIEF

Commercial taxes office to stay open this weekend

Ahead of the closure of the financial year 2024-25, the Department of Commercial Taxes has notified that all its offices will remain open on Sunday, March 30, and Monday, March 31, 2025. The move comes as a response to the increased demand for services as taxpayers complete their tax filings. The department encourages taxpayers to take advantage of the extended office hours to complete their transactions smoothly.

34 gold medalists, 24 PhD awardees honoured

CMR University celebrated its 9th annual convocation ceremony on Friday. As many as 2,188 graduate students received their degrees including 34 gold medalists, for their exceptional academic achievements. During the event, 24 scholars across various disciplines were also conferred with Ph.D degrees.

The ceremony was held at the Dhwani Auditorium on the CMRIT Campus in Bengaluru. Governor of Karnataka, Thaawarchand Gehlot, presided over the programme, with M.C. Sudhakar, Minister of Higher Education, Karnataka, was the chief guest.

The convocation featured a special recognition of H. Boniface Prabhu, a renowned Paralympian and motivational speaker, alongside Srikanth Nadhamuni, the CEO of Khosla Labs, both of whom were conferred with the Honoris Causa award.

H.B. Raghavendra, Vice Chancellor of CMR University, delivered the welcome address and Annual Report, while Chancellor Sabitha Ramamurthy administered the aath of integrity to the graduates.

BJP rebels decide to urge party brass to roll back Yatnal's expulsion

The MLA, who had stayed put in his home town since his expulsion, attends meeting in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rebel leaders in the Karnataka unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), who had identified themselves with senior MLA Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal – who has been expelled from the party for six years for "anti-party" activities – met here on Friday and decided to appeal to the party high command to roll back the expulsion.

Significantly, Mr. Yatnal was also part of the meeting held at former Davangere MP G.M. Siddeshwar's flat.

A file photo of Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal with other BJP rebel leaders G.M. Siddeshwar and Ramesh Jarkiholi.

'In the interest of party'

Even as another member of the rebel group, B.P. Harish, MLA, has also been served a show-cause notice by the disciplinary action committee of the party, the leaders sought to show a united front and underline that they are "fighting in the interest of the party".

Mr. Yatnal, who had stayed put in his home town since his expulsion from the party, landed in Bengaluru on Friday morning and participated in the meeting. Party MLAs Ramesh Jarkiholi, Mr. Harish, Kumar Bangarappa, Mr. Siddeshwar, and others were part of the meeting.

Briefing media persons after the meeting, Mr. Bangarappa said the suspension of Mr. Yatnal for six years had pained the common party workers and Hindutva organisations in the State. He said they would appeal to the high command to reconsider its decision and roll back the expulsion.

"This does not mean we are opposing the decision of the high command. We are only appealing to them to set the BJP in the State in order. The central leadership has heard us as well and we are confident of good news soon," he said,

Meeting also discusses show-cause notice issued to B.P. Harish, MLA

indicating that they were hopeful of changes in the party's leadership in the State. The rebel group has made the removal of B.Y. Vijayendra as the chief of the State unit of the party one of its main agenda.

'No new outfit'

Mr. Bangarappa sought to clarify that reports that the group of rebels was working to launch a new political outfit were baseless. "We are working in the interest of the party and want to bring it to power in 2028," he said.

He said the meeting also discussed the show-cause notice issued to Mr. Harish. "The time to send his reply ends on Friday. We have provided him guidance from legal and political advisers to draft his reply," he said.

Gehlot refers mineral rights Bill for President's assent

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Thaawarchand Gehlot

Governor says the Bill will have an adverse impact on the laws passed by Parliament and Supreme Court rulings

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has referred the Karnataka (Mineral Rights and Mineral Bearing Land) Tax Bill, 2024, which proposes taxes on mineral-bearing land and mineral rights, for the assent of the President of India.

The Bill proposes to levy a tax from ₹20 to ₹100 per tonne for different minerals. The proposed law is expected to bring revenue of ₹4,207.95 crore, and tax on land-bearing minerals would fetch another ₹505.9 crore a year.

Citing various provisions of the Bill passed by the State legislature, the Governor said they would have an impact on the parliamentary legislation/Central Acts such as the Environmental Protection Act, 1986, the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

'Impact on royalty'

The Raj Bhavan said the net present value/compensatory afforestation charge collected under the Forest (Compensation) Act and the further levy of tax as contemplated under the present Karnataka Bill would have an impact on the royalty, National Mineral Exploitation Trust, District Mineral Foundation, and dead rent for the land situated in the forest and non-forest areas etc. being imposed and collected under the parliamentary legislation of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, and Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

The Governor also received objections to the Bill from the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries, Southern Region.

Court rulings

The Governor also cited rulings of the Supreme Court in the matter of Samaj Parivartana Samudaya and Others vs. State of Karnataka and said the Bill contemplating recovery of taxes on sales with effect from 2005 also amounts to occupying and is repugnant to the field occupied by the law made by Parliament or rulings of the Supreme Court of India.

"The provisions of the Environmental Protection Act and the MCDR (Mineral Conservation and Development Rules), passed by Parliament earlier to the present Bill also occupy the same field," the Governor said.

"The objective of the Bill appears to transgress the other Constitutional limitations and provisions. The objective of the Bill is also calculated to adversely affect the legitimate interests of other States or their people. In the light of the above, I, hereby exercising the powers under Articles 200, 201, 254, and 304(b) of the Constitution of India, reserve the subject – the Karnataka (Mineral Rights and Mineral Bearing Land) Tax Bill, 2024, for the assent of the President of India," the Governor said.

Apex court allows HDK to move High Court against eviction notice

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday permitted Union Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy to pursue his remedy in the Karnataka High Court against an eviction notice issued by revenue authorities on the basis of contempt proceedings in which he is not a party.

Appearing before a Bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and S.V.N. Bhatti, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi with advocate Balaji Srinivasan termed the turn of events a "comedy of errors".

The top court told the Minister that since he had already challenged the order of eviction in the State High Court in a separate writ petition, he could raise his submissions there in accordance with the law.

'In a predicament'

The Bench agreed that Mr. Kumaraswamy was put in a predicament by being issued an eviction order when he had already been removed from the contempt proceedings.

"The order of eviction is based on the contempt proceedings. Suddenly, I am being issued an eviction order on it," Mr. Rohatgi submitted on behalf of his client.

The dispute concerned allegations that Mr. Kumaraswamy and his associates had encroached on government land at Kethaganahalli near Bidadi.

Mr. Kumaraswamy has maintained in the High Court that the land was purchased by him, and he was a political target for the Congress government in the State.

The High Court had earlier passed an interim order directing the State government not to take any coercive steps against Mr. Kumaraswamy.

Bandipur night traffic ban a highly sensitive issue, says Khandre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre said on Friday that the night traffic ban through the Bandipur Tiger Reserve is a "highly sensitive issue" and a consensus decision would be made only after consulting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and seeking the opinion of legal experts.

Mr. Khandre, who was in Delhi after meeting Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and AICC secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal, told reporters that a petition was being heard in the Supreme Court seeking the removal of the night traffic ban and that a restriction is currently in place banning the movement of traffic through the tiger reserve from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

"Appropriate steps will be taken after discussions with all stakeholders, considering the relationship between Karnataka and Kerala," Mr. Khandre said.

Earlier this week, the Minister convened an emergency meeting during which he was also reported to have sought the opinion of senior officers on the night traffic ban. The meeting was held after a senior Forest Department official sent an affidavit that did not favour lifting the night traffic ban.

The Karnataka government is said to be under pressure from Kerala Congress leaders to lift the night traffic ban.

Prices of all essentials have hit the roof: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after the hike in milk prices by ₹4 a litre was announced, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok on Friday lashed out at the government for frequently rising milk prices and burdening the common people who are already hit by an increase in the prices essential commodities and tickets in public transport "owing to faulty policies of the Congress".

R. Ashok

The Congress government increased milk price three times, totalling ₹9 a litre, since it came to power in May 2023, he said. The BJP will hold protests across the State against the price hike, the dates of which will be fixed after Ugadi festival, said the BJP leader.

At a press conference, he said the Budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was "full of lies", and he had warned that a "disaster" was coming. Taxes should have been announced in the Budget itself, but they were increased after the Budget was passed, he said. He accused the government of resorting to deception to garner media praise post-Budget. The entire economy depends on electricity and petrol, and when their prices rise, the cost of all goods increases, Mr. Ashok said.

On the one hand, tax money was being used to pay salaries to party members who are part of the guarantee implementation committees, and on the other, people were being burdened, he alleged.

Launching a volley of allegations, he said in the last 20 months, no reservoirs had been expanded, and the Mekedatu project had not been implemented. In Bengaluru, a green cess had been imposed on garbage. The service charges in government hospitals had been increased. Now, 'Brand Bengaluru' had turned into an "expensive Bengaluru", he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah has borrowed huge amounts of funds, said Mr. Ashok. "The Chief Minister alone is responsible for 65% of the State's debt," he claimed.

Larger than life

Colourful sight: A 'robotic butterfly park', set up at a fair to create awareness on conservation of insects, at Binny Mills Grounds in Bengaluru on Friday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

'State keen to set up foreign language labs in nursing colleges'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

This will enhance the global employability of nursing students in Karnataka, says Minister

To enhance the global employability of nursing students in Karnataka, the State government will establish foreign language laboratories in all nursing colleges, Medical Education and Skill Development Minister Sharan Prakash Patil has announced.

Speaking at the inauguration of the physiotherapy building at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar College of Physiotherapy on Friday, Dr. Patil emphasised the growing international demand for skilled nurses and allied health professionals.

"We are being approached by hospitals in Germany, Italy, Japan, and the UAE for immediate recruitment of trained nurses and allied health sciences students. These hospitals require candidates proficient in their native languages and we are taking steps to equip our students in these languages," he said. To meet this demand, nursing students would have the option to learn German, Japanese, Italian, and English during their course period to ensure they are better prepared for overseas employment opportunities, said the Minister.

Dr. Patil also stressed the need to eliminate substandard paramedical and nursing colleges. He urged professional medical colleges to introduce allied health sciences courses on their campuses to ensure high-quality education with robust teaching and infrastructure.

AICC programme to empower district party chiefs soon: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday said the AICC was chalking out a programme to empower district party presidents and give a new shape to the party organisation.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the Congress district presidents' meeting, he said the AICC, under the leadership of Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and the general secretaries, held a meeting of district party presidents and decided to launch a programme to empower the party organisation.

Taking them along: KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and district Congress presidents from Karnataka participated in a meeting with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge in New Delhi on Friday.

"The district presidents were briefed on various aspects such as membership campaigns, inspection of voter list, appointment of BLOs, use of social media, raising donations for the party, etc. The central working committee meeting to be held in Gujarat will take a decision on the empowerment programme," Mr. Shivakumar added.

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
No.8, "Samparka Soudha", Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010.
Telefax : 080-22024000, e-mail : mdkrdcl@gmail.com, cekrdcl@gmail.com, Website: http://www.krdcl.in

No. KRDCL/IFB/EOI/2024-25/33 Dated: 28-03-2025

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (through KPP Portal)

The Government of Karnataka (GoK) entrusted to KRDCL for the **development, maintenance and management of 'Road from Devanahalli - Vemagal - Kolar (from 0.00 km to 49.284 km) of SH-96 (Design length 48.20 km) in the state of Karnataka on PPP - DBFOMT Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)'.** The Estimated Project Cost is of **Rs. 762.86 Crore** (Excluding GST) with Concession period of **15 years** (including 24 months of construction period).

KRDCL now invites Expression of Interest (EoI) for **Selection of Independent Engineer** services for this project. The applicants shall be short-listed based on the criteria set forth in EoI proposal. The consultant may submit Expression of Interest for this project.

The Consultants may form Joint Venture(s) with other firms to enhance their qualifications to be shortlisted for this project. Interested Consultants may obtain further information, if required during office hours on working days.

Interested applicants can download EOI proposal from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) of GoK. The proposals must be submitted online only at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) of GoK **on or before 23.04.2025 upto 17:30 hours IST.** Opening of EOI proposal is on **25.04.2025 at 11:30 hours IST.**

Please note that henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through Newspapers and further changes will be updated only in the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) of GoK/KRDCL***website - www.krdcl.in.***

Sd/- Chief Engineer
KRDCL, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/YC/5967/2024-25

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.49, 4th & 5th Floor, East Wing, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560001. Phone No. 080-22265383
Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-58/1139/2024-25 Date: 28.03.2025

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the work: Construction of Storm water drain near Naganayakanahalli and Channarayapatna Villages at Hi-Tech Defense & Aerospace Park, Phase-2 Industrial Area, Bengaluru Rural District. (2nd Call).

- **Last date for submission of bids is: 03.04.2025 upto 04:00 pm**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1
KIADB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5976/AKAR/2024-25

Give autonomy in higher education, Kerala tells Centre

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala has officially submitted its position on the Draft UGC Regulations, 2025, to the Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission.

The report calls for safeguarding university autonomy and upholding the principles of federalism in higher education.

Prepared by the State Level Quality Assurance Cell (SLQAC) Kerala, under the Higher Education department, the report advocates for preserving the academic and administrative independence of universities in the State. It expresses concern about the potential centralisation of powers and calls for the continued involvement of State governments in higher education governance.

The government also highlighted the importance of inclusive policy-making by holding broader stakeholder consultations before finalising the regulations. Bemoaning the lack of provisions to protect the interests of academic and administrative staff, the response urges steps to safeguard the rights and service conditions of teachers and non-teaching staff.

To enhance academic quality and accessibility, the State has called for regulatory frameworks that support access to quality higher education. The SLQAC recently organised a State-level discussion to formulate Kerala's response. Besides, the Kerala State Higher Education Council had constituted a committee to study the legal implications of the regulations.

Payoff case: HC rejects pleas against Kerala CM, daughter

High Court had earlier issued notices to Pinarayi and Veena on a petition filed by a Congress MLA challenging special court order that dismissed plea for probe into the CMRL-Exalogic transactions

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Friday dismissed pleas by Mathew Kuzhalnadan, Congress MLA, and the late RTI activist Girish Babu who had sought a probe against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on the alleged financial transactions between Exalogic Solutions Limited, the now-defunct company of his daughter T. Veena, and Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL).

The court, however, termed unwarranted the remarks made by the trial court – that the plea by Mr. Kuzhalnadan was politically motivated – and quashed them.

The High Court had earlier issued notices to Mr. Vijayan and his daughter on a petition filed by Mr. Kuzhalnadan, which challenged the order of a special court of the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau that dismissed his petition seeking a probe into the financial dealings between the two firms.

'No services provided'

In his petition before the special court, Mr. Kuzhalnadan had sought a probe into the payment of ₹1.72 crore to Exalogic by the CMRL, although it had not provided any services to CMRL. He had also contended that the CMRL made the payment to facilitate procurement of mineral sand from the Thottappally spillway, mined by the Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. However, the special court had rejected the plea.

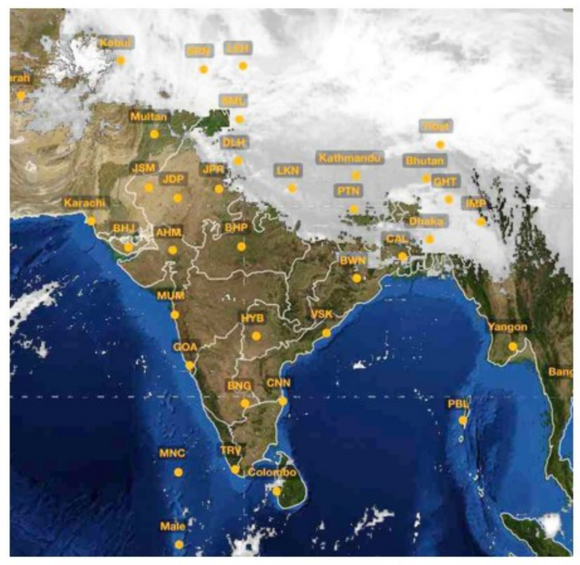
Pinarayi Vijayan

In his appeal before the High Court, Mr. Kuzhalnadan argued that the special court did not consider the binding decision of the Interim Board for Settlement under the Income Tax Act. Citing the I-T Act, the respondents contended that the board's order, being a confidential document, cannot be relied on or used against any person.

Passing the order, the court said that the complainant could only place materials highlighting suspicions, based on the allegations in the complaint, and not facts constituting the alleged offences. Any unnecessary investigation into an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act against a public servant, based on such suspicions may cause a blemish on his career or reputation. Being called to appear before a criminal court as an accused is a serious matter that affects one's dignity and public image, it said, and went on to dismiss the petition.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, West Bengal, central Maharashtra and Goa. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over interior Odisha. Hot and humid conditions likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	36.6	25.4	Kozhikode	0.3	36.2	27.0
Ahmedabad	—	36.0	21.4	Kurnool	—	42.1	26.8
Aizawl	—	35.2	19.4	Lucknow	—	37.8	22.0
Allahabad	—	40.8	20.8	Madurai	—	38.8	25.7
Bengaluru	—	34.1	23.3	Mangaluru	—	33.0	25.1
Bhopal	—	34.9	20.4	Mumbai	—	33.6	22.3
Bhubaneswar	—	40.2	25.0	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	31.8	19.4	New Delhi	—	32.3	20.9
Chennai	—	37.1	25.9	Patna	—	38.6	24.9
Coimbatore	—	37.6	24.6	Port Blair	—	33.1	22.0
Dehradun	—	32.3	17.0	Puducherry	—	36.7	25.2
Gangtok	—	20.0	14.4	Pune	—	40.7	22.9
Goa	—	35.0	27.0	Raipur	—	40.8	23.7
Guwahati	—	34.5	21.2	Ranchi	—	35.3	20.0
Hubballi	—	39.0	23.0	Shillong	—	26.2	14.5
Hyderabad	—	39.1	24.4	Shimla	—	25.0	13.2
Imphal	—	29.8	13.1	Srinagar	0.2	19.9	7.1
Jaipur	—	32.6	22.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.4	25.9
Kochi	—	33.4	27.2	Tiruchi	—	38.6	25.4
Kohima	—	24.6	13.0	Vijayawada	—	38.6	25.0
Kolkata	—	40.0	26.2	Visakhapatnam	—	33.6	26.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.38	.33	.14	145	125	
Bengaluru	.13	.77	.24	73	88	
Chennai	7	8	.37	78	120	
Delhi	.29	.66	.69	152	278	
Hyderabad	7	119	.11	164	138	
Kolkata	8	.31	.79	115	107	
Lucknow	.18	.49	.58	162	168	
Mumbai	6	127	2	71	76	
Pune	—	.15	102	311	—	
Visakhapatnam	9	.54	.31	64	105	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 356 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Belgaum, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 36

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Kerala film producers' body deploys ethical hackers to track down movie pirates

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala Film Producers' Association (KFPA) has deployed ethical hackers to check the growing threat of movie piracy.

The hackers engaged by the association are involved in tracking down those behind the suspected leak of an online version of *L2: Empuraan* a few hours after its release on Thursday, said B. Rakesh, KFPA secretary, on Friday.

He said Aashirvad Cinemas, the co-producer of the movie, had filed a complaint before the cyber wing of the Kerala Police after the suspected pirated version of the movie appeared online. The ethical hackers have been told to deploy digital tracking tools to monitor and identify video piracy. They use technologies to track the sharing and downloading of copyrighted content on file-sharing networks.

The KFPA stated that stringent legal measures would be initiated against those involved in piracy. Such steps will also be taken against those involved in downloading and sharing of the pirated versions of movies. Mr. Rakesh urged the government to step up its action against video piracy. "The menace can be regulated if the authorities initiate strong action against the violators. We have requested the government to set up a dedicated team of police personnel to track those behind such illegal acts," he said.

Four of family found dead in Kodagu

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Four members of a family were found dead in a house near Begur village in Kodagu's Ponnampet taluk on Friday. The deceased have been identified as Nagi, 32, and her seven-year-old daughter Cauvery, Nagi's father Kariya, 75, and her mother Gauri, 70.

The bodies bore marks of a machete attack.

Nagi's husband Girish, 35, is absconding. Police has launched a search for Girish.

Both Nagi and Girish were working as labourers in a coffee estate. The incident came to light when fellow workers came looking for them when they failed to turn up for work on Friday. The couple was staying in the house of Nagi's father Kariya, according to sources.

INBRIEF

Naidu invites IIT-M students to set up startups in Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh will host students from IIT-Madras who wish to test their startups, ideas, or knowledge, says Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Mr. Naidu, who spoke at the All India Research Scholars' Summit-2025 organised at IIT-M in Chennai on Friday, said, "Any student who wants to test his or her startup, knowledge, or ideas can come to Andhra Pradesh. We will give you proof of concept, and you can go anywhere and do your business." He said his government was building a 'Quantum Valley' in Amaravati with the support of IIT-Madras.

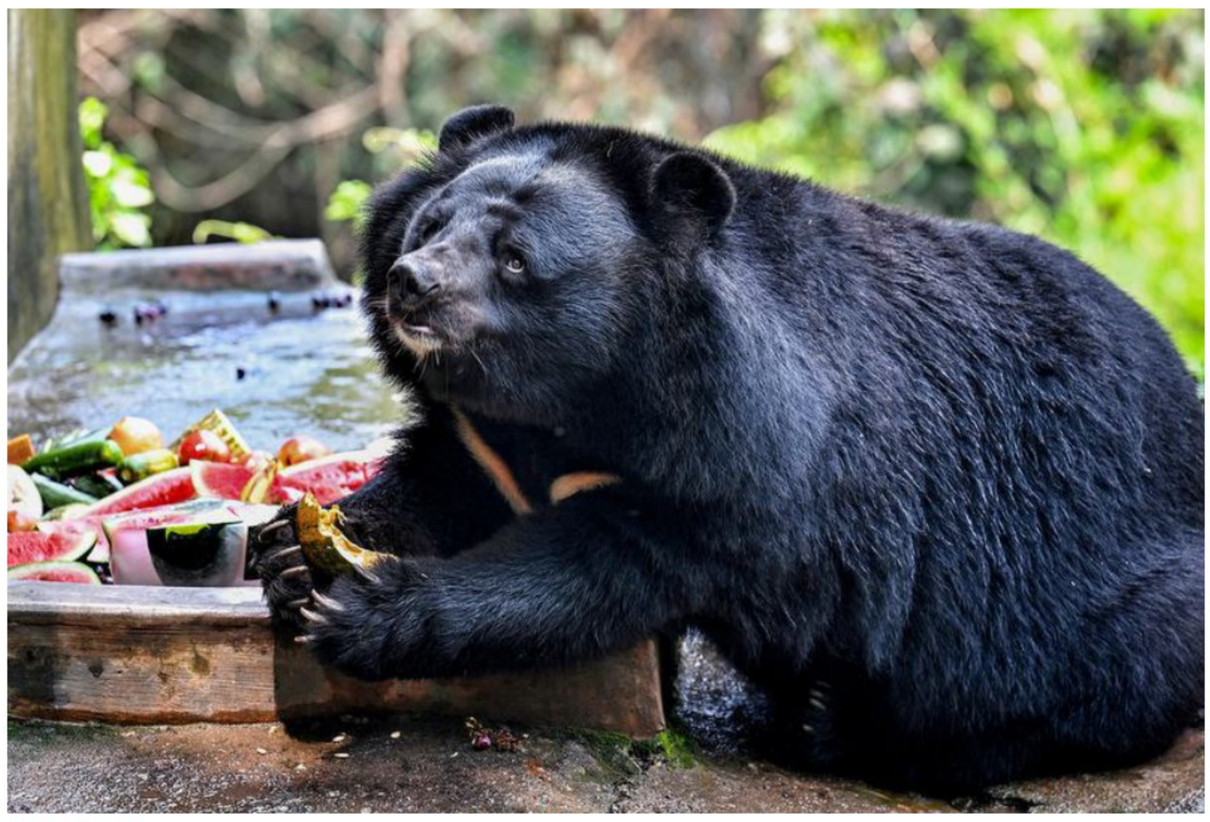
Ten Maoists and militia members surrender in A.P.

As many as 10 members of banned CPI (Maoists) and militia members from Chhattisgarh surrendered before the Alluri Sitharama Raju district police at Paderu in Andhra Pradesh on Friday. The ASR district police said among the surrendered include Kadithi Rama alias Sammaiah, 44, Divisional Committee Member, South Bastar Divisional Committee, Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee Member of CPI Maoist, Chhattisgarh. He has ₹8 lakh reward on him.

Building collapse: body of second labourer retrieved

The body of the second labourer was retrieved from the debris of the under construction six-storey building that collapsed in Bhadrachalam town of Telangana on Wednesday. Rescuers recovered the body of the second mason, P. Upender, 40, after nearly 33 hours of multi-agency rescue operation. Two labourers were trapped under the debris of the building on Wednesday. On Thursday, a 45-year-old worker, who was rescued from the debris died while undergoing treatment at a hospital.

Summer treat



Beat the heat: Kohima, a 10-year-old Himalayan bear, chilling with a fruit platter inside his enclosure in the Thiruvananthapuram zoo on Friday. The 166-year-old zoo is working overtime to shield its residents from the summer's worst effects. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

We owe it to soldiers for protecting our freedom: Priyanka

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress general secretary and Wayanad MP, has extolled the role of soldiers who fight for the country to "uphold the freedom of each and every citizen, that many of us often take for granted."

"Martyrs' memorials are reminders that whatever we have today has come at a cost, and there are people who sacrificed a lot for it," she said, inaugurating Veer Jawan Thalachira Janeesh Smrithi Mandapam at Elumannam in Edavaka grama panchayat of Wayanad on Friday.

Ms. Vadra also appreciated the members of Haritha Karma Sena, who played a pivotal role in earning the 'Zero-Waste Grama Panchayat' title for Edavaka, and said they were "as important as the soldiers." She released the citation of the zero-waste panchayat on the occasion.

Bandipur, Nagarahole home to nearly 75% of Karnataka's tigers

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

Habitat protection and corridor connectivity is critical for dispersal of tigers and their long-term conservation. M.A. SRIRAM

Bandipur and Nagarahole account for more than 75 per cent of all tigers across the five reserves in the State, underlining their importance as critical habitats for the conservation of this iconic species.

The Karnataka Forest Department has indicated that there are 393 tigers in the five tiger reserves – Bandipur, Nagarahole, Biligiri Ranganthaswamy Temple (BRT), Bhadra, and Kali tiger reserves – as per the 2024 Phase IV population estimation exercise carried out between November 2023 and February 2024.

The tiger population in each reserve indicates that Bandipur with 154 tigers and Nagarahole with 149 tigers, account for 303 of the 393 tigers across these reserves, reaffirming their status as key tiger habitats in Karnataka.

The BRT Tiger Reserve has recorded 39 tigers, while Bhadra and Kali tiger reserves have reported 29 and 22 tigers, respectively.

Though the number of tigers across all the reserves is lower than what it was in 2023 when 408 tigers were reported, senior officials maintain that a minor fluctuation in numbers is not a cause for worry.

In 2023, Bandipur accounted for 158 tigers while Nagarahole had 140 tigers. BRT Tiger Reserve had reported 45 tigers while Bhadra had 36 and Kali 29.

The Phase IV population estimation exercise, conducted using camera traps, reflect a consistent trend in Karnataka's tiger population trends and is also evident in the results of All-India Tiger Estimation conducted once in four years by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Ramesh Kumar, Conservator of Forests, Project Tiger, said that high prey density in both Bandipur and Nagarahole, had helped support the tiger population. Besides, both these reserves played a pivotal role in ensuring the overall success of tiger conservation in India, he said.

But experts believe that the two national parks have reached their saturation point and the challenge ahead is to ensure that there was no increase in human-animal conflict surrounding these two tiger reserves.

This is because both Bandipur and Nagarahole each have more than 120 villages along the forest periphery supporting a large human population.

Hence, they called for augmenting the tiger habitat by providing protection to corridors and enable the dispersal of tigers to other protected areas like M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

This, they said, would not only ensure long-term conservation of tigers but also ensure that there was gene transfer among different tiger population groups eliminating the risk associated with inbreeding.

But for this to happen, the authorities should dispense with unregulated and unbridled tourism activity such as opening new safari routes besides cracking down on unauthorised resorts and homestays proliferating around tiger reserves, according to activists.

There is also the challenge of ensuring protection on a 24/7 basis and strengthening anti-poaching measures and beefing up anti-poaching camps, especially in M.M. Hills and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuaries, as they can act as a sink to absorb the increase in tiger population from Bandipur, BRT and Nagarahole, in future.

Valley and hills

Peace and stability in Kashmir require people's participation

The separatist politics that dominated Kashmir for decades appears to be losing ground in the face of the assertive approach by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led central government. The Narendra Modi government has succeeded in altering the ground realities in Kashmir, advancing a new narrative of an aspirational region that seeks prosperity, peace, and integration. Reflecting this shift, members of several separatist outfits – J&K Peoples Movement, Democratic Political Movement, J&K Tahreeq Isteqlal, Tahreek-i-Istiqamat and J&K Salvation Movement – recently announced their formal dissociation from separatist ideology. Union Home Minister Amit Shah hailed the development as evidence of separatism becoming a thing of the past, crediting Mr. Modi's vision of a "developed, peaceful, and unified Bharat". That even second-rung separatist leaders or little-known separatist groups are publicly renouncing separatist politics and acknowledging its failure marks a significant departure from the past. It signals the emergence of a new paradigm for separatist leadership in the region. At the same time, it signals the end of an era where political engagement was viewed as a tool to manage separatist sentiment. Earlier Prime Ministers – P.V. Narasimha Rao, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh – had engaged in dialogue with separatist groups, and on several occasions, Pakistan had also joined the table. This approach shifted dramatically with Mr. Modi's rise to power in 2014. In 2019, the government abrogated Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional status. Over the last five years, the Ministry of Home Affairs has banned key separatist organisations which include the Jamaat-e-Islami, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front led by Yasin Malik, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's Awami Action Committee, Mohammad Abbas Ansari's Ittihadul Muslimeen, and Shabir Shah's Democratic Freedom Party. The Hurriyat Conference, once an influential coalition of over 20 organisations, including lawyers and traders' bodies, has been largely rendered inactive. With most of its top leaders jailed or sidelined, separatism now lingers on the margins, overshadowed by shifting political realities.

Still, whether the people and political class of J&K have organically embraced the realities, post-2019, remains an open question. The heavy deployment of security forces across urban centres is a reminder that New Delhi is yet to achieve complete control over the region. Meanwhile, militancy has morphed from an urban threat into guerrilla-style forest warfare, aided by advanced communication technologies and terrain-mapping tools. While Pakistan is entangled in internal crises, it is unlikely to relinquish its interests in Kashmir any time soon. New Delhi must now build upon its gains with deliberate, inclusive, and people-centric policies. Stability in Kashmir cannot be sustained by force alone – it requires trust, participation, and long-term vision. As a first step, J&K must be restored as a full-fledged State of the Indian Union in keeping with the Centre's commitment to the Supreme Court of India.

Equitable distribution

PAC recommendations on GST reforms will resonate with States

The 19th report of Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is appropriately scathing in its criticism of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, introduced in July 2017 to simplify, unify and improve indirect tax compliance in India. At the outset, the PAC highlights a nearly 2% drop in indirect tax revenue between FY18 and FY20 – the first two years of GST prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the several discrepancies flagged, it is the non-auditing and non-finalisation of the States' Compensation Fund for over six years that stands out as particularly troubling. This has strained the functioning of what was meant to be a unified yet federal tax structure. The PAC notes the Centre's failure to furnish the Compensation Fund Account to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), a necessary step to certify and release timely compensation to States for revenue losses since the rollout of GST. The centralising tendencies of the GST regime have long been a point of contention for major revenue-generating States, many of which have raised concerns over diminished fiscal autonomy and sharp declines in indirect tax collections. As a destination-based tax, GST is levied at the point of consumption, adversely affecting manufacturing-heavy States.

To address these concerns, the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, mandated a Compensation Fund and promised States a 14% annual revenue growth for five years (2017-22), using FY16 as the base year. However, many States have reported either non-receipt of funds or serious delays, which they say have negatively impacted governance. The PAC attributes this to the Centre's indifferent approach. In one striking example, the PAC cites 2,447 inconsistencies – amounting to ₹32,577.73 crore – out of a sample of 10,667 cases – and criticises the Finance Ministry's audit approach as "lackadaisical". The PAC has recommended establishing a formal mechanism with the CAG to ensure timely audits and updates on pending cases. It also calls for a comprehensive review to develop a "GST 2.0" – a recommendation that is likely to resonate with States demanding a greater share of GST revenues, closer to 70%-80%, up from the current 50%.

India's geopolitical vision should be larger

T.S. Tirumurti

was Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, New York (2020-22) and President of UN Security Council for August 2021

Earlier this month, Russian President Vladimir Putin thanked world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for their "noble mission" to end the fighting between Ukraine and Russia. This has brought cheer to Indians.

But there is a question to be asked – Why has India refrained from playing a more active political role in regional and international conflicts around the world?

This is all the more surprising when one considers the decisive steps taken by Indian leaders in conflicts in the neighbourhood whether, *inter alia*, in Bangladesh in 1971 when India helped stop a genocide and give birth to a new nation; in the Maldives in 1988 by stopping armed mercenaries overthrow its President; in Sri Lanka in 2009 by helping in the defeat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or, recently, by combating piracy in the region.

Let there be no mistake. India has been an active net contributor to global public good whether through the 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative during the COVID-19 pandemic, robust climate action which includes establishing the International Solar Alliance, the sharing of digital public infrastructure to the world or its role as first responder during natural disasters.

A reticence

However, in the last two decades, India has, rightly, prioritised economic growth, both under the United Progressive Alliance and National Democratic Alliance governments. This has catapulted India to the rank of fifth largest economy. Having reached there, we seem to have convinced ourselves that if we take an active political role in global or regional conflicts, it could adversely affect our growth and development.

India's reticence may also stem from the fact that it feels that getting involved in regional conflicts will upset the strong bilateral relations that have been carefully cultivated with countries. Or that these conflicts are best left to key players in that region and outside, like in West Asia where India has big stakes but does not want to be more proactive than the Gulf countries, which are lukewarm to the unfolding tragedy in Gaza and the region. Yes, all of the above has some rationale. At a time when the world order is disintegrating, and with India having global ambitions of its own, India's geopolitical vision should be larger, which will only help, not hinder, our economic ambitions.

Historically, one will be right to say that India provided political leadership to the Non-Aligned Movement to empower developing countries emerging from colonisation to find their voice. One might also be right to say that our multi-alignment policy of today is an equally compelling political stand to navigate geopolitical fissures by strengthening our bilateral relations with every key country. But non-alignment was also for the Global South while multi-alignment is primarily for us.

> In a 'Trumpian' world, India must not treat economic development and geopolitics as mutually exclusive

However, when a country becomes the fifth largest economy, prides itself as a thriving democracy, aspires for a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) seat as a permanent member and also aspires to be an important pole in a multipolar world, the expectations of the international community from India only increase. India needs to do much more than take a stand or be a bystander. If in the UNSC, India claims that decisions are not credible without the participation of the world's largest democracy, then this logic applies equally to decisions taken outside the UNSC.

Mr. Putin's statement is an expression of gratitude to India's Prime Minister, who made a bold statement in his visiting Russia last year in the midst of the Ukraine war. India's decision to abstain on UNSC votes on the war, when there was considerable pressure to vote against Russia, influenced big developing countries to take a more balanced position on the war. Further, Mr. Modi had conveyed to the Russian President earlier that this is "not an era of war" and pressed him not to use nuclear arms. But Mr. Putin's statement is also a subtle encouragement to India to play a much bigger role. When India is one of the few countries with credibility which can speak to both Russia and Ukraine, should it not be on the high table?

There is a global reset

The flip side is that if India does not meet those expectations, it is ceding space to countries such as Türkiye or Saudi Arabia or Qatar, to tackle conflicts in Europe, West Asia, Africa, or the South China Sea, where the stakes for India are high. The meeting between Ukraine and Russia in 2022 took place in Türkiye. The U.S.-Russia and U.S.-Ukraine talks that took place in Saudi Arabia recently, fit into an ambitious Saudi Arabia's version of multi-alignment. And just now, the Presidents of Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo met in Qatar to forge a ceasefire in eastern Congo. Further, geopolitical clout is something the Trump 2.0 administration recognises, unlike when India was ignored by its 'strategic partner' the U.S. during Troika Plus talks on Afghanistan, or in Bangladesh recently, in India's own neighbourhood.

Faced with a global reset, with the U.S. and parts of Europe lurching to the right, where the U.S. could downsize its engagements in some regions, particularly Europe and Asia on the one hand, and with fragmentation of trade and rising protectionism on the other, India needs to reach outwards instead of just trying to protect its space. Given that its adversarial relations with China are not going to vanish anytime soon and its trade deficit with China is set to increase with the supply chains closely linked, strengthening of alignments with friends in theatres outside the region is key. It becomes even more relevant when the U.S. and China move towards a "deal" which could end up dividing regions into their spheres of influence and the balance of power shifts in Asia, where the Quad (India, Japan, Australia and the U.S.) could potentially lose its strategic relevance and India comes under pressure.

A time for a shift and also reform

This calls for regional policies, since regional policy is not just the sum of India's bilateral relations with countries in that region, be it West Asia or Central Asia. For example, India developed close bilateral relations with the Central Asian countries and important regional stakes, but downgraded its participation in the regional grouping, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. East Asia demands India's enhanced attention too, especially after its refusal to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). This is the time for a strategic shift towards Europe, which is under pressure. And also a time to undertake internal economic reforms to enhance India's competitiveness and meet U.S. expectations on a bilateral trade agreement, which could be the fulcrum for a broader engagement with the Trump 2.0 administration. However, being proactive in conflicts does not mean that India becomes a mediator or passes messages from one party to another. Further, waiting for warring parties or a dominant power such as America to invite India may be a prudent policy, but they will not ask India unless New Delhi conveys its readiness to be a geopolitical player committed to international peace and security.

For example, India played an important role, but not a mediatory one, in the Korean war in the UN Security Council between 1951-52 barely four years after Indian independence. The fact that India was an impoverished nation did not deter it. In recognition, it was made chair of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission. During India's recent stint in the UNSC (2021-22), it was a bridge for divergent views.

Therefore, in a 'Trumpian' world, and as the world order gets shaped in favour of the big powers, both old and new, and when there is geopolitical fragmentation, even unilateralism, let us not treat economic development and geopolitics as mutually exclusive. We need to practise multi-alignment in all its dimensions to gain the full benefits. India should use the window of Trump 2.0 and emerge as a major pole by actively shaping a disintegrating world order.

Advantage China in Africa's nuclear energy market race

Samir Bhattacharya

is Associate Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation

The Russia-Ukraine war has demonstrated the importance of energy security, where many European countries were caught scrambling and developing new energy partnerships. The devastating impact of the war did not spare Africa too despite the geographical distance. As African leaders are reworking the energy basket of their countries, nuclear energy is emerging as the driver of this energy transformation.

Currently, Africa has only one nuclear plant, at Koeberg in South Africa, built by a French consortium. However, other African countries, which includes Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Rwanda, Kenya and Zambia, are projecting the use of nuclear energy to enhance electricity access for their citizens.

According to some estimates, Africa is expected to generate 15,000 MW of nuclear energy by 2035. Africa's nuclear energy market is poised for significant growth, representing an investment opportunity of $105 billion. Unsurprisingly, many countries want a slice of this strategic market.

The scramble for Africa's nuclear market

So far, France has dominated Africa's nuclear market. However, it is rapidly losing its influence and struggling to maintain its relevance, particularly in Francophone Africa. Meanwhile, since 2023, the United States has been organising the US-Africa Nuclear Energy Summit (USANES). However, it will depend on U.S. President Donald Trump on whether and how he wants to proceed with the U.S.'s nuclear expansion plan in Africa.

Russia, another important player in Africa's nuclear market, has inked several agreements with Egypt, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Burundi. Since July 2022, Russia's Rosatom has been building a reactor in El Dabaa, Egypt, though progress is slow. With Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power (KHNP) at the helm, South Korea has also shown its interest in capturing this untapped market. However, the country that is undoubtedly winning the race for the nuclear market is China.

> With a number of African countries reworking their energy basket, Beijing could emerge as the partner country of choice

Explaining China's dominance

China's nuclear ambition in Africa is a relatively new phenomenon. In 2012, in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the China Atomic Energy Authority began a scholarship programme for students from African and South Asian countries wishing to develop national nuclear programmes. It served, among other things, to provide training in Chinese procedures and equipment to increase the chances of African countries purchasing them. Today, China has more than 50 operating reactors. Undoubtedly, China has emerged as an attractive partner for African countries interested in developing nuclear energy.

China's nuclear expansion in Africa is being spearheaded by two large state-owned companies – the China General Nuclear Power Group (CGN) and the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC).

In 2024, during the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing, Nigeria signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with China that includes the design, construction, operation, upgrading, maintenance and decommissioning of nuclear power stations in Nigeria. The visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Nigeria in early 2025 further cemented this collaboration.

At the same summit, Uganda also signed an MoU with China to build a 2 GW nuclear plant. The first unit, of 1 GW, is expected to be connected to the grid by 2031. Kenya also plans to have a research reactor in operation by 2030. While Kenya is still open on its choice of partner country, Ghana has selected the U.S.-based NuScale Power and Regnum Technology Group to build its Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), while China National Nuclear Corporation is set to build a Large Reactor (LR).

In West Africa, the junta leaders of Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali are all leading pro-Russian governments, and signed an MoU with Russia on the sidelines of the Russia-Africa Summit 2023. Although they have approached the Russian nuclear behemoth, Rosatom, to build their nuclear capacity, the massive investment required to make a nuclear power plant and Russia's own economic stagnation due to the Ukraine war and associated sanctions may deter Russia from investing on such a large scale in far-away Africa. This would again most likely push these countries, desperate for foreign investment, toward China.

Africa's nuclear ambition, impact on India

As the global drive toward cleaner and more efficient energy accelerates, Africa will increasingly consider nuclear energy as a panacea to the problem. Therefore, regardless of China and the debt trap risk, African countries would look to Chinese financing to support them in their nuclear journey. Today, China is already leading the race in constructing new nuclear power plants across the world.

Further, very few African countries possess the transmission networks required to receive and distribute power from these nuclear plants. China can also help build these transmission networks under the framework of its schemes such as the "Belt and Road Initiative". If China manages to do that, this will not only enhance its position as a leader in Africa's clean energy market but also entrench its overall dominance in Africa.

As of January 30, 2025, India's nuclear generation capacity is 8,180 MW. As India aims to generate 100GW of nuclear energy by 2047, it would be important for India to secure African uranium. In 2009, India signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement with Namibia. India also plans to develop some uranium mining projects in Niger and Namibia. Yet, with increasing Chinese dominance, it would be harder for India to venture in Africa's nuclear market, impacting India's energy security in the long run.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Role of the communists

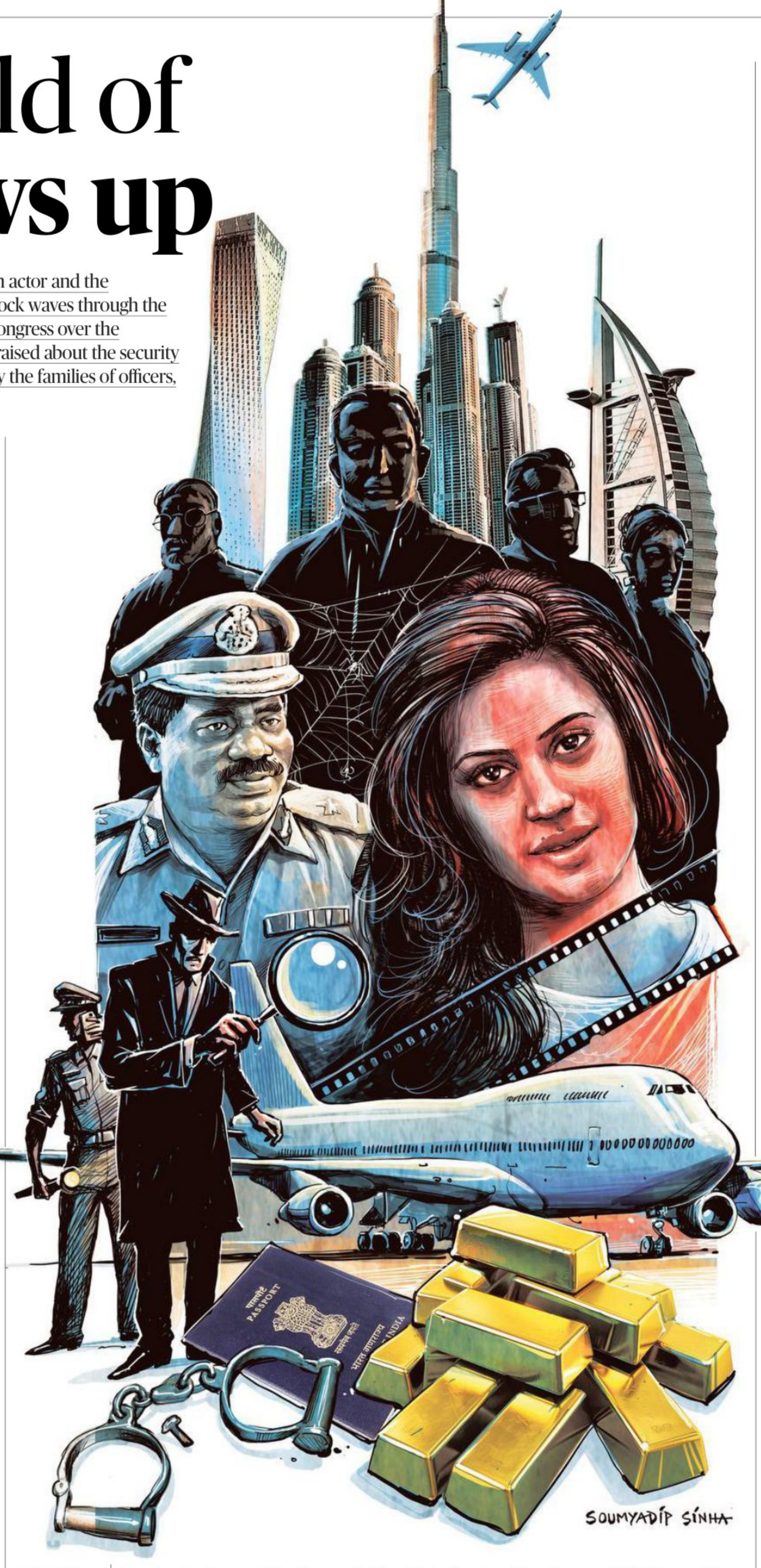
I write this letter as Polit Bureau Member, CPI(M). There are facts that need to be highlighted in connection with the article, "The less talked-about change of nomenclature — from Madras State to Tamil Nadu in 1961" ('Tamil Nadu InFocus' page, March 28). First, it was mainly the Communist Party which fought for the formation of linguistic States. Accordingly, States such as Visala Andhra, Kerala and Madras State (1956) came into existence in the 1950s. These developments led to the demand for the naming of Madras State as Tamil Nadu. The seventh paragraph of the article refers to an indefinite hunger fast, led by K.P. Sankaralinganar Nadar in 1956 at Virudhunagar. The Communist Party of India wholeheartedly supported his demand and requested him to give up his fast. It also assured him that the CPI would take up this issue. Before his passing, Sankaralinganar Nadar had, in a letter to the revenue authorities, wanted his body to be handed over to the communists for last rites. This has been reported in *Janasakthi*, October 14, 1956. In pursuance of the assurance, P.Ramamurthi, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), moved a Bill in the early 1960s demanding a change of nomenclature from Madras State to Tamil Nadu. Since P. Ramamurthi was arrested by the Madras State under the Defense of India (Rules), Bhupesh Gupta, a CPI MP from Bengal, moved the Bill and spoke on it. C.N. Annadurai, MP from Tamil Nadu, also spoke in support of the Bill. It is unfortunate that the Union government refused to pass the Bill. When the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam came to power in 1967, the Assembly adopted a resolution — as stated in the article — to rename the State as Tamil Nadu. The role of the communists needs to be highlighted.

G. Ramakrishnan,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

A minefield of gold blows up

The alleged gold smuggling case involving Ranya Rao, an actor and the step-daughter of an IPS officer in Karnataka, has sent shock waves through the State. While the Opposition has questioned the ruling Congress over the involvement of politicians, serious concerns have been raised about the security breach at the airport and the abuse of police protocol by the families of officers, reports **K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj**



On March 3, sleuths from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) waited at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), Bengaluru, for a "passenger of interest", Z8195849. They reportedly had intelligence that the passenger, travelling on Emirates flight EK566 from Dubai, which was scheduled to arrive at 6:20 p.m., may be carrying gold – "either in crude form or as paste".

The passenger was Harshavardhini Ranya (Ranya Rao), a Kannada film actor and the step-daughter of K. Ramachandra Rao, Director General of Police (DGP), Karnataka Police. As Ranya deboarded the flight and walked into the airport terminal, two personnel from the Karnataka Police greeted her. They were Basavaraj, head constable, International Airport Police Station; and Dhanush Kumar, constable, Karnataka State Intelligence. With the two of them providing her protocol services, Ranya walked through the green channel meant for passengers with no dutiable or prohibited goods, the DRI said in its report later. Ranya had walked through the same channel several times in the past after landing from Dubai, the DRI report added.

However, this time, things took a different turn. The DRI said officials stationed at the exit of the green channel summoned her aside for checks. They asked if she had any gold to declare to Customs; Ranya said she did not. Two female officers then took the actor into a private room, where Ranya reportedly confessed to having hidden gold bars on her body, the DRI said. The agency claimed that it recovered "yellow metal bars with foreign markings" of 24 karat gold weighing 14.2 kilogrammes from her. The DRI said Ranya had used a crepe bandage on her calf and a medical adhesive tape on her waist to conceal the gold. They also found bars of gold in the pockets of her jeans and the soles of her shoes. The assayer estimated the gold recovered to be worth ₹12.56 crore. The DRI also detained Basavaraj and Kumar, who had been escorting her.

In his statement to the DRI, Basavaraj claimed that "as a gesture of courtesy, he had been, from time to time, instructed to provide protocol assistance to family members of senior officials". He said he had been "asked by DGP Ramachandra Rao to assist his family members by providing protocol assistance" and had provided the service a few times to Rao earlier. He claimed that Ranya called him on March 3, informing him of her arrival from Dubai and requesting him to be present at the airport. He said he had no knowledge of any attempt to smuggle gold. Kumar simply tagged along with him.

However, on March 6, when her police custody ended and she was transferred to jail, Ranya wrote to the DRI chief from the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, denying all the allegations against her. She disputed the mahazar she had signed at the airport on March 3, which showed that gold had been recovered from her. She claimed that she had been framed in the case, detained from the aircraft contrary to the DRI's version of events, slapped repeatedly, and made to sign on around 40 pages.

How the case blew up

The case sent shock waves through the power corridors of Karnataka. Multiple Central agencies – the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), and the Income Tax Department – joined the probe along with the DRI, which is rare for a gold smuggling case.

The Opposition, citing a speculative media report that said two Ministers in the State government were linked to the case, demanded that the government name them. The ruling Congress hit back saying 12 acres of land had been allotted by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board to a company led by Ranya during the previous Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regime.

A First Information Report was registered against Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, a BJP leader, for making "vulgar" remarks against Ranya, claiming that she had affairs with multiple politicians. He has since been expelled from the party for other reasons.

However, none of the documents submitted to the courts by any of the Central agencies mentions the involvement of any politician or minister. Speaking in the Karnataka Legislature Session, Home Minister G. Parameshwara claimed that the Central agencies had not informed the State of any details regarding the case.

The Karnataka government has sent Rao, who was posted as Chairman and Managing Director, Karnataka State Police Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation, on mandatory leave. An inquiry committee led by Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta was appointed to probe the misuse of police protocol and the role of Rao, if any, in the case.

In a press statement immediately after Ranya's arrest, Rao claimed that he had no knowledge of gold smuggling. He said if Ranya had violated any laws, legal action would be taken against her. "I ask all of you to recognise that I too am a grieving parent," he said. "I had no knowledge of such an unimaginable situation unfolding in my life."

> If someone successfully smuggles over 10 kg of gold and also sells it in the black market in India, they make around ₹50 lakh
>
> An official

Only a mule?

Ranya's statement to the DRI, which she has now disputed in its entirety, claimed that she was just a mule and was forced to carry the consignment. But multiple documents of the DRI, including its complaint to the CBI based on which the agency has registered a case, has indicated "a possible nexus with a coordinated smuggling syndicate, possibly operating from Dubai (UAE)", and international links to the case.

After she was caught at the airport on March 3, in her statement to the DRI, which is part of the remand application submitted to the court, Ranya claimed that she got a bunch of Voice over Internet Protocol calls from foreign numbers over two weeks preceding her trip to Dubai. She said that a man "of African-American accent" told her that he would come in a white gown and hand over gold to her at Gate A, Terminal 3, of Dubai International Airport, which he did. She claimed that she saw YouTube videos to learn how to hide the gold handed over to her. She also claimed that she had been instructed to dump gold in an auto-rickshaw at a traffic signal at the end of the service road outside KIA and that this was the first time she had ever got gold from Dubai.

However, multiple documents accessed by *The Hindu*, including DRI applications before the court, and court orders, indicate that the agencies are not buying this theory. They believe that Ranya ran a company in Dubai, which imported gold to Dubai and smuggled it into India. The agency has also accused her of running hawala transactions to transfer the funds from India to Dubai to purchase gold.

Raids at Ranya's residence in the posh locality of Lavelle Road in Bengaluru yielded ₹2.67 crore of cash and jewellery worth ₹2.06 crore. Ranya could not show sources for both, the DRI said. More significantly, her arrest memo, accessed by *The Hindu*, shows that the DRI recovered two Dubai Customs declarations dated November 13, 2024, and December 20, 2024 in favour of Ranya. However, on these trips, she did not declare any gold in Bengaluru and pay Customs duty. This indicates at least two prior instances of smuggling, sources said. DRI officials also recovered a Resident Identity Card issued by Dubai in her name.

DRI documents claimed that a forensic analysis of her phone led them to make the second arrest in the case – Tarun Raju, 30, a U.S. citizen and an Overseas Citizenship of India card holder, who is based out of Bengaluru. His arrest and a probe into the company that the two of them ran in Dubai paint a different picture of the entire operation, sources claimed.

Tarun is the grandson of a prominent hotelier and industrialist in Bengaluru. Tarun and Ranya knew each other from college. Ranya debuted as a lead actor in *Manikya* in 2014. She then starred in the Tamil film *Wagah* in 2015 and the Kannada film *Pataki* in 2017. Tarun debuted as a lead actor with the 2018 Telugu film *Parichayam* under the name Virat Konduru. However, opportunities dried up for both of them after these films.

Later, Ranya started a series of marketing firms, sources said. Ranya and Tarun incorporated a firm, Vira Diamonds Trading LLC, with a 50% stake to both in Dubai in 2023. This gave Ranya a resident card in Dubai and exempted her from needing a visa to visit the UAE, sources said. While Ranya was the sole investor, Tarun was a working partner and Ranya invested on his behalf. He exited the firm in December 2024.

The company was reportedly importing gold into Dubai, as the UAE doesn't levy import duty on gold. DRI documents indicate that Ranya used to buy gold from wholesale suppliers in other countries, such as Switzerland and Thailand, making payments in foreign currency in Dubai.

Though the company had claimed that they were selling the imported gold in Dubai, it is now suspected that Ranya was smuggling it to India, making over 26 trips between 2023 and 2025. The remand application of Tarun reportedly details an instance where the company was cheated of ₹1.7 crore by suppliers. The DRI has claimed the payment was organised by Ranya through hawala channels from India to Dubai.

The modus operandi

Tarun played a key role in smuggling gold from the Dubai International Airport, the DRI has claimed in court. The gold that he and Ranya would allegedly smuggle from Dubai to India would be declared with Dubai Customs in the name of Tarun as being taken to either Geneva or Bangkok. After passing Dubai Customs, Tarun would hand over the gold to Ranya who would also be travelling the same day, said sources.

Though Tarun has argued in the courts, while applying for bail, that he exited Vira Diamonds in December 2024 and is in no way connected with the case, the DRI has claimed that on March 3, Tarun was also in Dubai with Ranya, and bought his air ticket with the money that she transferred to him. In his statement to the DRI, Tarun admitted that the purpose of his visit was to collect gold from a person and hand it over to Ranya. He collected the consignment, declared it as being taken to Geneva with Dubai Customs, handed it over to Ranya after passing through Customs, and travelled to Hyderabad, the DRI has claimed.

A senior Customs official said that the duo seems to have exploited two loopholes in the system in Dubai. First, while the company they had floated claimed to import gold and sell it in Dubai, they seem to have been "exporting" it back to Geneva or Bangkok, without raising red flags. Second, after they declared at Dubai Customs that they were taking the gold to Geneva, agencies there don't seem to have realised that the two of them were boarding flights to India. Since Dubai Customs and India Customs do not have a channel of communication, their activities seem to have gone below the radar.

Gold smuggling is still lucrative

After returning to power in May 2024, the BJP-led Central government cut import duty on gold from 15% to 6%. This was expected to cut down gold smuggling. However, the practice remains lucrative, especially since gold prices have shot up over the past year, sources in the gold market said. A senior official who has probed smuggling cases said that after the cut in Customs duty on gold, smugglers are now being caught carrying the precious metal in large quantities, usually over 10 kg, to make a trip "viable."

In another case flagged by the DRI to the CBI, two foreign nationals were caught trying to smuggle 21.28 kg of gold into India through Mumbai Airport days after Ranya was caught. "If someone successfully smuggles over 10 kg of gold and also sells it in the black market in India, they are bound to make around ₹50 lakh," an official said.

The DRI has now alleged that Ranya was selling the smuggled gold herself. The agency arrested a gold trader, Sahil Sakariya Jain, from the north Karnataka district of Ballari, on March 26, accusing him of "assisting and abetting Ranya in disposing of the smuggled gold and sharing the sale proceeds."

Earlier this month, the DRI raided two jewellery stores in Bengaluru. The ED raided a firm that gives loans against pledged gold. Ranya is alleged to have sold the smuggled gold through some of these channels, sources said. While the probe seems to have established the trail of gold, what remains to be probed is the money trail and any assets the accused allegedly acquired through the proceeds of crime, sources said.

Misuse of police protocol

The committee headed by Gupta has submitted its report to the State government. Sources in the government said that the report doesn't conclude that Rao was involved. However, it reportedly says that prima facie, he knew that protocol assistance was being given to Ranya and she had used his official car to get home from the airport in multiple instances.

Meanwhile, sources in the Karnataka State Police said that as per the rules, only police officers with the rank of Inspector General of Police and above, and Indian Administrative Service officers with the rank of Joint Secretary and above, are eligible for police protocol at airports when they are on official trips. "But many senior officers and politicians have been abusing police protocol at the airport. No rule extends this protocol to the family members of officers. But no one imagined that this could be misused to carry out alleged criminal activities. It is high time this abuse of protocol stops," a senior IPS officer said.

A senior Customs official said Customs usually "conducts random checks, and checks based on specific intelligence of contraband or passenger profiling." But the officer conceded that if a passenger is accompanied by police protocol, they are usually not subjected to random checks. While a former Customs official argued that a full body scanner would help plug loopholes at the airport, the senior Customs official pointed out that full body scanners are deployed at departures for security purposes worldwide, and not at arrivals. Trials for full body scanners were held at multiple airports, including at KIA, as mandated by security agencies in 2023. But they are not operational yet.

Meanwhile, the CBI, based on a complaint by the DRI, has registered a case against unknown public servants of the Government of India under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and is probing officials who were posted at the airport during Ranya's earlier trips, when she is suspected to have smuggled gold. Ranya and Tarun's bail pleas have been rejected and both of them are lodged in judicial custody.

adhitya.bharadwaj@thehindu.co.in

From Page One

'Free speech is integral part of healthy society'

Justice Oka, who authored the judgment with inputs from Justice Bhuyan, said the state and the police should not play ball to victimise individual opinions on behalf of those crippled by insecurity and view criticism as a threat to their power and position. The top court highlighted that the police and the government have a duty to uphold and honour individual right to speech and expression.

The Gujarat Police had registered a case against Mr. Pratapgadhi, accusing him of promoting enmity among people of different groups on the basis of caste and religion.

Justice Oka, during a March 3 hearing of the case, had remarked that the poem was a reference to non-violence, a path followed by Mahatma Gandhi himself. Mr. Mehta had however found the poem at best "*sadak chaap*" (cheap). He had objected to the comparison with Mahatma Gandhi.

The FIR was lodged on the basis of a complaint about an edited video featuring the MP with the poem playing in the background.

The Solicitor-General had replied that a poem was capable of many interpretations, asking a policeman to interpret poetry may be a tall task.

HC grants Kunal Kamra protection from arrest

For obtaining the interim relief, the petitioner was directed to execute a bond, along with two sureties, to the satisfaction of the judicial magistrate at Vanur in Villupuram, since it was reported that he had shifted his residence from Mumbai to Villupuram in Tamil Nadu in February 2021 itself.

The relief was granted after hearing the petitioner's counsel V. Suresh, assisted by S. Tanvi, who claimed that his client had not named anyone, much less Mr. Shinde in the comedy show, and Government Advocate (criminal side) S. Santhosh representing the Auroville Police in Villupuram district. In his petition, Mr. Kamra had said that though he was born in Mumbai, he shifted his residence to Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu in February 2021 because he was desirous of leading a quiet life in a rural area.

'X Corp. is misleading court with false claims'

In fact, Meta Inc., representing Facebook, Instagram and Whatsapp, is putting in place API-based integration with the SAHYOG portal to enable real-time action, the Centre claimed, in its statement.

The Centre also made it clear that it was not issuing direct 'blocking orders' under Section 79(3) in violation of Section 69A, but was simply notifying platforms of harmful content and warning them of their liability if they ignored such notices. "In case of non-compliance of the notices, the result is lifting of safe harbour protection and consequent action under extant law as per Rule 7 of IT Rules, 2001, and the same is fundamentally at a different plane altogether," it said.

"The petitioner [X Corp] has referred to takedown notices/requests under Section 79 read with Rule 3(1)(d) of IT Rules as 'blocking orders' throughout the petition which is completely misguiding and erroneous," the Centre said.

The petition, in which X Corp. has sought a declaration from the court that information 'blocking orders' cannot be issued under Section 79, will come up for further hearing on April 3.

Even Indira couldn't change Pak.'s 'bigoted mindset', says Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister responds to questions in Parliament on minority rights in Bangladesh and Pakistan; he says India has raised issue at international forums and with government concerned; Islamabad brazenly harbours terrorists, he adds

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Even the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi could not change Pakistan's "bigoted mindset" in 1971, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Friday, responding to questions in Parliament about the condition of minorities in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Mr. Jaishankar said that it was not possible to "change the mindset" of a neighbouring country, but that India had raised the issue at international forums, and in Bangladesh's case, directly with the government in Dhaka. The responses come a few days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi is due to travel to Bangkok to attend the seven-nation BIMSTEC Summit (April 3-4) along with Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, though the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has been non-committal about whether the leaders will hold a bilateral meeting on the sidelines.

Thorny issues: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament on Friday. ANI

During Question Hour in the Lok Sabha on Friday, Mr. Jaishankar received a number of questions about the treatment of the minority Hindu community in both Bangladesh and Pakistan. However, he restricted most of his responses to Pakistan's failure to keep promises given in a number of India-Pakistan agreements on equal and fair treatment of religious minorities there, enumerating at least 10 cases of attacks just in February 2025 on Hindus, Christians, Sikhs and Ahmadiyya sect members.

"We are making our position very well-known, we are taking it up at the international level but we as a government and a country cannot change the mindset of a neighbour who has a fanatical, bigoted mindset. Even Indira Gandhi could not do it," Mr. Jaishankar told the House, referring to the 1971 India-Pakistan war and the creation of Bangladesh. "Despite it being taken up in international forums and bodies, the Government of Pakistan does not take action to protect its minorities and this is the position on which we have been very public and very clear," he added.

Quoting from recent speeches made by India's envoys to the United Nations and Human Rights Council, Mr. Jaishankar called Pakistan a country with "human rights abuses, persecution of minorities and the systematic erosion of democratic values" and state policies to "brazenly harbour UN-sanctioned terrorists."

In response to a specific question about Bangladesh, Mr. Jaishankar said that India followed the situation there "closely", and had compiled 2,400 incidents of violence against minorities there in 2024, and 72 incidents thus far in 2025.

"I have taken it up with my counterpart [Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain]; Foreign Secretary [Vikram Misri] took it up when he visited Bangladesh [in December 2024], and this continues to be a matter of concern for the Government of India," Mr. Jaishankar said in response to a question by Arun Kumar Sagar, MP, though he sidestepped references to Bangladesh in responses to other MPs from the Bharatiya Janata Party, including Ravi Shankar Prasad and Nishikant Dubey, and Arvind Sawant of the Shiv Sena (UBT).

The Minister's statements comes at a time when a report issued by the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom recommended that Pakistan continue to be designated a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC) by the U.S., and said minorities there were persecuted by violent attacks, mob lynching, and false blasphemy cases.

The Ministry of External Affairs had sharply rejected the report as it also criticised India for attacks on religious minorities.

Indian courts have 1.45 lakh contempt cases pending

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

More than 1,800 contempt cases are pending in the Supreme Court while another 1.43 lakh cases are pending in the High Courts, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal told the Lok Sabha in a written reply on Friday.

As per data shared by the top court, 1,852 contempt cases are pending before the Supreme Court as of March 20, the Minister said.

Citing information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the Minister said that 1,43,573 contempt cases were pending with the High Courts as of March 24. "The reasons for non-compliance with the orders in contempt cases pending before the Supreme Court and various High Courts are not available with the government," Mr. Meghwal said.

"As far as the Government of India is concerned, the responsibility of implementation of court orders rests with the respective administrative Ministries," he added.

Kathua operation continues, more militants holed up in forest range

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Security forces failed to establish contact with holed-up militants on Friday in the Juthana Safan forest area of Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir. Officials indicated the likely death of an additional police officer and a militant at the encounter site, which could raise the total fatalities since Thursday to four police personnel and three militants.

In action: Security personnel during the anti-terrorist operation in Kathua on Friday. PTI

Following a night-time suspension, security forces resumed operations, employing heavy gunfire and controlled explosions to pinpoint the locations of the militants believed to be in hiding. Officials said that the operation continued throughout Friday to locate any remaining active militants.

Security agencies suspect that more than five militants were present in the area initially, and three were killed and another was "seriously injured" during the exchange of fire on Thursday. However, no fresh exchanges were reported on Friday. Official sources suspect the presence of three more militants within the forest range.

Helicopters and drones were deployed to aid in the tracking. The joint operation involves personnel from the J&K Police's Special Operations Group, the Army, the National Security Guard, and the Central Reserve Police Force.

Officials reported that a drone surveillance operation on Friday sighted one more body in a dense forest area where a significant exchange of fire occurred on Thursday. Security agencies suspect this body to be that of a police officer, though official confirmation from the police is still pending.

Security forces are yet to recover the bodies of the three militants believed to have been killed thus far.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha, while offering his condolences for the three police officers who died on Thursday, said, "In the ongoing Kathua encounter, several terrorists were neutralised. The J&K Police and security forces are actively engaged, and the operation is in progress."

The bodies of all three deceased police officers were transferred to Kathua Hospital on Friday. Anti-militancy operations have been ongoing in the area since Sunday, following the sighting of a group of militants by local residents.

Cabinet increases DA, DR for Central staff and pensioners

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

48.66 lakh Union govt. staff and 66.55 lakh pensioners will get 2% increase over the existing rate of 53% of basic pay or pension, says Centre

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved an additional instalment of dearness allowance (DA) to Union government employees and dearness relief (DR) to pensioners effective from January 1.

The Centre said 48.66 lakh employees and 66.55 lakh pensioners will get a 2% increase over the existing rate of 53% of the basic pay or pension.

It will cost ₹6614.04 crore a year to the exchequer.

Trade unions have alleged that it was done without holding any discussion with the stakeholders. All India Trade Union Congress general secretary Amarjeet Kaur said on Friday that the Central Civil Service-Pension Rules amendments betrayed lakhs of pensioners.

Ms. Kaur said the amendments exclude existing pensioners from benefits of the proposed Eighth Pay Commission and make it applicable only to those employees who retired after implementation of the Pay Commission recommendations.

Union Information Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters that the increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the seventh Central Pay Commission.

Army inducts in-house developed First Person View drones

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Army has begun inducting a First Person View (FPV) drone with anti-tank payload that was developed, tested and validated in-house, in collaboration with the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh.

Five of the FPV drones, each costing ₹1.4 lakh, have been inducted and 95 are being procured, officials said. The FPV drones came into prominence in the war in Ukraine and have changed the battlefield dynamics by disproportionally taking out heavy and expensive military platforms like tanks.

It was developed by Maj Cephas Chetan with a team of TBRL, led by Dr. Raghvendra under an initiative launched in August 2024.

Centre signs ₹62,700-crore deals with HAL for 156 LCH

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry on Friday signed two contracts with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) to buy 156 indigenous Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) and training and associated equipment for a total of over ₹62,700 crore, excluding taxes.

The Army will get 90 of the helicopters, while the remaining 66 are meant for the Air Force. The contracts were signed soon after the deal got final sanction from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).

"The supply of these helicopters shall commence from the third year and will be spread over the next five years. The contracts will enhance the combat capability of Armed Forces at high altitudes," a Defence Ministry statement said.

An HAL Light Combat Helicopter in flight.

This is India's first indigenously designed and developed combat helicopter designed to operate at an altitude of over 5,000 metres. The helicopter has a large number of components designed and manufactured in India and it is planned to achieve an overall indigenous content of over 65% during the execution of this procurement, the Ministry said. "This will involve over 250 domestic companies mostly MSMEs and will generate over 8,500 direct & indirect jobs."

The Ministry also signed a contract with Metrea Management for Wet Leasing of one flight refueller aircraft for providing air-to-air refuelling training to pilots of the IAF and Navy. "Metrea will provide one KC135 aircraft within six months which will be the first FRA to be wet leased by IAF," the statement added. Another major deal, an order for 97 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk1A, is set to be concluded in the next few months.

The Army and IAF have already inducted 15 Limited Series Production models of the LCH which were approved at a cost of ₹4264 crore.

The IAF inducted the LCH in October 2022 into 143 Helicopter Unit 'Dhanush' at Jodhpur Air Force Station.

The Army raised its first LCH Squadron on June 1, 2022 at Bengaluru and it was later moved to Misamari in Assam.

Justice Varma case: SC says CJI can act upon results of in-house probe

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said the Chief Justice of India has multiple options, including criminal action or a reference to Parliament for removal of Justice Yashwant Varma, depending on what is unearthed by an in-house inquiry into the alleged discovery of half-burnt currency at the High Court judge's residence after a fire on March 14.

The Centre, meanwhile, notified the transfer of Justice Varma from the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court. The Supreme Court Collegium recommended his transfer on March 24.

Following the notification, the Supreme Court asked the Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Arun Bhansali not to allot any judicial work to Justice Varma for the time being when the latter assumed charge as a judge of the High Court.

Justice Yashwant Varma

"Right now, the in-house process is going on. Once the committee submits its report, the Chief Justice of India has all options open before him. He can agree to the registration of an FIR or refer the committee's report to Parliament for removal," Justice A.S. Oka, heading a Bench with Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, addressed advocate-petitioner Mathews J. Nedumpara.

Mr. Nedumpara has asked why an FIR was not registered on neither the fire nor the alleged finding of the money at Justice Varma's residence.

"Today is not the day or time to consider an FIR. The inquiry is going on," Justice Oka responded.

As per a Constitution Bench judgment of 1991 in the *K. Veeraswami* case, no criminal case can be registered against a High Court judge, a Chief Justice of a High Court or a Supreme Court judge without prior consultation with the Chief Justice of India. Mr. Nedumpara contended that the judgment had fettered the police by creating a "special class of privileged".

He further questioned the jurisdiction of the three-member committee comprising three High Court judges constituted by the Chief Justice of India on March 22 to conduct an in-depth inquiry into the allegations against Justice Varma.

The in-house procedure was approved by the Supreme Court in 1999. It is based on the spirit of two important charters governing judicial ethics - the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life and the Bangalore Principles of 2002.

The in-house procedure was devised keeping in mind the sensitivity of conducting a probe into allegations against a sitting judge, the individual integrity of the parties and the preservation of institutional reputation.

The ongoing enquiry is diving deep into three questions put forth by the CJI during the preliminary probe, that is, how does Justice Varma account for the money allegedly found in the room; the source of the money; and who removed it from the room on March 15.

Dhankhar leaves meeting as MPs seek debate on EPIC issue

Opposition lacks decorum, he says after members seek discussion on electoral transparency at the Business Advisory Committee meeting

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar walked out of a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) of the Upper House on Friday, accusing the Opposition of not maintaining decorum.

Jagdeep Dhankhar

The meeting was called to decide the business for the Upper House for the coming week. The differences arose over the Opposition's persistent demand to have a short-duration discussion on "ensuring free and fair elections".

The Trinamool Congress and other Opposition parties had earlier moved several motions under Rule 267 to discuss the duplication of elector photo identity card (EPIC) numbers. On March 18, Trinamool's Derek O'Brien had said, "It is not anyone's intention to disrupt this House. We want the House to run, members have important issues to raise in Zero Hour. We want your kind consideration to allow a short-duration discussion on the issue of duplication of EPIC numbers which has been raised by several parties."

Mr. Dhankhar had then assured him that he would consider the request. "I will confer with leaders of the parties and come back to the House at the earliest," he told the House.

"Every time the BAC meets, we ask for a short-duration discussion on the issue. And every time, he says it is under his serious consideration," one of the members said.

On Friday, the Opposition parties insisted on an immediate decision, saying that only a few working days were left, with the Parliament session coming to a close on April 4.

Sources in the Chairman's office said Mr. Dhankhar walked out as the government and Opposition remained adamant on their positions.

BJP members slam 'insult' to King Rana Sanga

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister and BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad on Friday condemned the remarks by a Samajwadi Party MP against Rajput king Rana Sanga, asserting that the nation "will not tolerate insult" to great warriors.

BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad speaks during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha on Friday. ANI

Rana Sanga was the ruler of Mewar between 1508 and 1528. The SP's Rajya Sabha member Ramji Lal Suman had made a controversial observation that the Rajput king had "invited" Mughal invader Babur to the Indian subcontinent to defeat Ibrahim Lodi in the 16th century. His exact description of Rana Sanga was "expunged" from the records of the Rajya Sabha.

"I condemn the remarks made against Rana Sanga. Hindustan will not tolerate insult to legendary leaders like Shivaji and Rana Sanga," Mr. Prasad said, rasing the issue during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha. He said the legendary warrior formed part of India's heritage and continued to inspire Indians.

Rao Rajendra Singh, a BJP member from Jaipur, said Rana Sanga was the synonym for valour. He asked the Opposition if they approved of such comments against a warrior who had given his life fighting for the country.

Rajya Sabha proceedings were interrupted on Friday morning by protests over Mr. Suman's now-expunged remarks on the Rajput king.

The BJP demanded an unqualified apology from him, while the Opposition walked out in protest over an attack on Mr. Suman's home by the Karni Sena, a Rajput group.

Amid this war of words, the House was adjourned for half an hour.

As soon as the House sat on Friday morning, the Treasury benches started protesting. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar pleaded for order in the House, saying that the sentiments of the people are very precious, just as the dignity of a member of the House and his security are important.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju criticised the language used by Mr. Suman about the Rajput hero, and urged the Congress – in its position as the leading party in the Opposition INDIA bloc – to condemn the statement.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge responded, saying that the Opposition respects all patriots who fought for the country and does not condone insults against anyone. "But it does not mean that law and order should be taken into their own hands," Mr. Kharge said, referring to Karni Sena workers vandalising Mr. Suman's residence in Agra.

Suman gets shut down

During the war of words, Mr. Suman got up to speak, which provoked the Treasury benches to stand up and collect in the aisles. The Chairman then adjourned the House for half an hour.

Shortly after the House reassembled at noon for the Question Hour, Mr. Suman again stood up, requesting an opportunity to speak. Several Opposition members, including Mr. Kharge, the DMK's Tiruchi Siva, and the Aam Aadmi Party's Sanjay Singh, were on their feet, supporting his request.

However, when Mr. Suman was not allowed to speak, the Opposition parties staged a walkout from the House, which then resumed the Question Hour.

'Social media giving life to expunged remarks'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the Opposition and Treasury benches traded blame on Friday, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar reflected on the peculiar problem facing Parliament in the age of social media. Underlining that Samajwadi Party MP Ramji Lal Suman's "outrageous" remarks had been expunged, he said, "The problem is that whatever we expunge is expunged in our record but the social media gives traction to it."

There was a time, he said, when a remark was expunged and it remained so, but this has changed with the speed of electronic messaging. He has urged the Rajya Sabha's ethics committee to come up with a code of conduct so that the members exert care and sensitivity in what they say in the House.

Govt. passes Bill to simplify maritime regulations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Friday passed a Bill, which seeks to modernise provisions governing the carriage of goods by sea and simplify maritime regulations.

The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024, was passed by a voice vote. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 9, 2024.

It seeks to replace the Indian Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925, which establishes the responsibilities, liabilities, rights, and immunities in case of goods carried from one port to another port in India or abroad.

The new Bill retains all provisions of the Act.

"This new legislation is a part of the greater initiative of the government to rid ourselves of all vestiges of the colonial mindset and ensure ease of understanding and ease of doing business through simple and rationalised law," Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal had said in the Parliament before the Bill was passed.

Opposition MPs argue for cap on 'excessive' airfares, panel to monitor them

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

MP says migrant workers with limited income working in Gulf countries are forced to pay high airfares. FILE PHOTO

Leaders from various Opposition parties have called for a cap on airfares and the setting up of a quasi-judicial body to legally monitor them, arguing that ticket prices have become "exploitative" and "excessive" especially during the festival season.

The MPs were speaking in the Lok Sabha during a discussion on a Private Member's resolution moved by Congress leader Shafi Paramabil on July 26, 2024 where he has sought "a reasonable upper limit", a joint meeting with airline operators and relevant stakeholders to discuss excessive airfare during vacations as well as a quasi-judicial body to regulate and monitor air trariff "ethically and equitably". The plea was made in the context of semi-skilled migrant workers with limited income working in Gulf countries forced to pay exorbitant airfares.

Speaking during the discussion, Congress MP from Kerala Dean Kuriakose requested for a "reasonable" fixing of airfares as "looting" of travellers was unacceptable. "The PM is vocal for his love for the NRI community. It is a moral duty of the government to take care of the blue collar worker," Mr. Kuriakose said, underlining that remittances from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries accounted for 30% of total remittances in 2023-24.

"It is high time that the government decided to take concrete steps to ensure airfares were not exploitative in the name of market dynamics," he said while questioning how an airfare of ₹19,000 in off season could rise to ₹77,000 during peak season.

He also sought the implementation of the recommendation made in the 375th Parliamentary Standing Committee report of empowering the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) with quasi-judicial powers to impose price caps or penalise airlines for engaging in excessive airfares.

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra called for air tariff regulation during festivals such as Durga Puja when high airfares prevent people from going to West Bengal, and also called for an "airfare band".

Dalit leader Vinod Kumar Choudhary joins Cong. in Bihar

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Vinod Kumar Choudhary

Dalit leader Vinod Kumar Choudhary, who had organised the 130th birth anniversary celebration of Dalit icon Jaglal Choudhary in February, joined the Congress in the presence of Bihar Congress incharge Krishna Allavaru and Bihar Congress chief Rajesh Kumar on Friday.

On February 5, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had attended the birth anniversary event as the chief guest in Patna. While addressing the gathering, Mr. Gandhi had said that he was waiting for the day when Dalits took leadership positions in the country.

After joining the party at the headquarters of the Sadaquat Ashram in Patna, Mr. Choudhary said that Congress was the only party that raised issues concerning Dalits and backward classes, from the national to the State level. He expressed faith in the party's top leadership, particularly Mr. Gandhi and party chief Mallikarjun Kharge. Giving him membership slip, Mr. Allavaru said Mr. Choudhary and his supporters would strengthen the party's fight for social justice.

Data protection Act sections undermine RTI legislation: Moitra

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mahua Moitra

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra said during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha on Friday that Section 44(3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, undermined the Right to Information (RTI) Act by overriding some of its provisions.

"As a result of this, you won't get data on wilful known defaulters or anything which the government doesn't want you to get. This is completely undermining the RTI Act," the Trinamool leader alleged.

The two-term Lok Sabha member from Krishnanagar raised objections to a Section in the Act which states that any group which possesses data – journalists, activists, or political parties – can now be classified as a data fiduciary.

"The Data Protection Board, which is completely made by the government, has the power to impose a fine of ₹250 crore, and that can go up to ₹500 crore. This will have a chilling effect on anyone seeking data," she said.

She asked the government to repeal Section 42 (3) of the Act.

Panel calls for focus on women, children's welfare in Manipur

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Stating that the women and children in strife-torn Manipur were facing "immense hardship", a parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended that the Union Women and Child Development Ministry form a special panel to work on targeted policies and programmes to address their needs.

The department-related Standing Committee said the panel should directly monitor these women and children, and take steps to safeguard them from sexual violence in relief camps.

In its report on 'Demand for Grants 25-26' presented in both Houses of Parliament on Friday, the committee noted that Manipur had been reeling under an extraordinary crisis for 21 months, with hundreds of lives lost, and 50,000 to 60,000 people displaced. "A significant portion of those affected are women and children, who have been rendered homeless, deprived of basic necessities, and left in extreme distress."

The committee observed that access to nutrition, education, and healthcare has been severely disrupted. "These children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and elderly women are facing immense hardship, leading to grave psychological and social consequences," it said.

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ONLINE TENDER NOTICE : TN-214 (RVU2425WSOB02276)
E-tenders are invited for Annual contract for routine, breakdown maintenance work and providing assistance in operation of complete Ash Handling System of Unit-7 and 8 of 2x660 MW Units, SSCTPS, Suratgarh. Tender details are available on websites **http//eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**
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AMARAVATI DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (ADCL)
54-15-1, Venkateswara Nagar, Beside Yalamanchili Complex, Sonovision Building, Ring Road, Vijayawada, NTR Dist, Andhra Pradesh-520008. Email : amaravati-adc@adcl.in, ccdmc.amaravati@gmail.com, Website: https://adcl.in CIN Number : U93000AP2015SGC105535
NIT No. 214/ADCL/IPD/2025 Dated: 28.03.2025
Request for Proposal Notice
Request for Proposal for Appointment of Consultant for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Amaravati Iconic Bridge over River Krishna, connecting NH-65 (Near Mulapadu) to N13 Road of Amaravati Capital City, Andhra Pradesh.
The RFP can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **29.03.2025 to 21.04.2025 up to 15.30 Hrs**. The due date for submission of Bid is **21.04.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs**, Technical Bid opening is on **21.04.2025 @16.30 Hrs**. For further details please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and **www.adcl.in**
Sd/- Chairperson and Managing Director, ADCL, Vijayawada.

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग- कोटा
क्रमांक : 3453 दिनांक: 24.03.2025
निविदा सूचना संख्या-26/2024-25
NIB No. PWD2425A4807
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से जिला कोटा में केन्द्रीय सड़क इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर निधि योजना (CRIF) के अन्तर्गत ROB का निर्माण कार्य दस साल की मरम्मत के लिए ई.पी.सी. मोड पर 1 कार्य उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के ए श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है।
UBN No. PWD2425WLOB17318
इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेब साईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।
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सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा
DIPR/C/4370/2025

APPOINTMENT

भारतीय समुद्री विश्वविद्यालय
INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(A Central University under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India)
Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008

Advt. No. IMU-HQ/R/T/2025/01 Date: 29.03.2025

Special Recruitment Drive - Teaching Faculty

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for the following teaching positions to be filled through Special Recruitment Drive on Direct Recruitment basis for backlog vacancies. Interested candidates may submit their applications online through the link available at https://www.imu.edu.in/imunew/recruitment

Sl. No.	Post Code	Post	Discipline	No. of posts	Category	Academic Pay Level (7th CPC pay matrix)
1.	T-01	Associate Professor	Ocean Engineering	1	OBC - 01	Level-13A [131400-217100]
2.	T-02	Assistant Professor		1	OBC - 01	Level-10 [57700- 182400]
3.	T-03	Assistant Professor	Mathematics	5	OBC - 02; SC - 02; ST - 01	
4.	T-04	Assistant Professor	Mechanical Engineering	3	OBC - 01; SC - 01; ST - 01	
			Total	**10***		

*Out of 10 posts advertised, two posts are reserved for PWD (Blindness and Low Vision, Hard Hearing/ Deaf)

The vacancies stated above are tentative and are subject to change. IMU reserves the right not to fill up any of the posts advertised (or) cancel the recruitment at any stage. The place of posting may be in any one of six campuses of IMU (Chennai, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Visakhapatnam).

Important dates:
Opening date for the submission of online application : 29.03.2025
Closing date for the submission of online application : 21.04.2025
Last date for receiving hard copies of the applications : 28.04.2025

Women candidates are encouraged to apply

For further details regarding the eligibility criteria: i.e., Age, Educational Qualifications, Experience, etc., please visit https://www.imu.edu.in/imunew/recruitment

Sd/-
Registrar

INBRIEF

Govt. retains interest rates on small savings schemes

The government on Friday left interest rates unchanged on various small savings schemes, including Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificate (NSC), for the fifth straight quarter beginning April 1, 2025. "The rates of interest on various Small Savings Schemes for the first quarter of FY 2025-26 starting from 1st April, 2025 and ending on 30th June, 2025 shall remain unchanged...," said a Finance Ministry notification. The interest rates for popular PPF and post office savings deposit schemes too have been retained at 7.1% and 4%, respectively.

Nod for ₹37,216-cr. fertilizer subsidy during kharif season

The Union Cabinet, on Friday, approved the nutrient-based subsidy rates for the upcoming kharif season on phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers. The budgetary requirement for this subsidy will be ₹37,216.15 crore. "This is approximately ₹13,000 crore more than the budgetary requirement for the rabi season of 2024-25," Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. He said the decision would ensure availability of fertilizers to farmers at subsidised and reasonable prices. The Centre aims to rationalise subsidy on P&K fertilizers in view of the recent trends in the international prices of fertilizers and inputs.

PM promises assistance to Myanmar and Thailand

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised "all possible assistance" to Myanmar and Thailand after a 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit the two countries on Friday. The announcement of help came soon after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced Mr. Modi would visit Thailand during April 3-4 to attend the 6th summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in Bangkok.

"Concerned by the situation in the wake of the Earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand. Praying for the safety and wellbeing of everyone. India stands ready to offer all possible assistance. In this regard, asked our authorities to be on standby. Also asked the MEA to remain in touch with the Governments of Myanmar and Thailand," Mr. Modi said in a message.

The issue of humanitarian assistance in BIMSTEC region also featured in the media engagement of the officials of the MEA later in the day with Secretary (East) of the Ministry of External Affairs Jaideep Mazumdar.

University's negligence led to Nepal student's death: NHRC

KIIT officials handled the student's complaint prior to her death in a 'very casual manner', and their 'gross negligence' may be treated as act of 'abetment to commit suicide', says report

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The National Human Rights Commission has said the negligence of the KIIT University in Odisha was responsible for the death of a Nepalese woman student on its campus last month. The panel's report deemed it an instance of abetment to suicide.

Expressing strong displeasure over the sequence of events leading to the death and a lackadaisical approach of the university authorities in handling the situation, the rights panel asked the Odisha Chief Secretary to submit an action-taken report.

On February 16, the 20-year-old student was found dead in her university hostel room. Subsequently, angry students began protesting on the campus, alleging that the university had ignored complaints of harassment. When tensions escalated, the university forcibly evicted more than 500 Nepalese students from the university.

Taking cognisance of the incident, the NHRC had directed its Registrar (Law) to conduct an on-the-spot inquiry along with a team of two officers from its Investigation Division, one not below the rank of Senior Superintendent of Police, and another from the Law Division. The NHRC team found that the International Relation Office (IRO) of the KIIT did not act decisively on specific complaint of the deceased that she was being blackmailed by one of her classmates, Advik Shrivastava. The IRO handled the matter the matter in a very casual manner, it found.

Students during a protest after a Nepalese student was found dead in her hostel room in KIIT University, Bhubaneswar last month. PTI

"The IRO office and disciplinary committee just got undertakings from the victim and the alleged accused rather than informing or referring to this complaint to the Internal Complaints Committee or the local police station," the NHRC findings say.

Gross negligence

"The Chairperson of the ICC has also admitted in her statement that the complaint of the deceased girl dated March 12, 2024 should have been forwarded to the ICC. Therefore, the conduct of the IRO, university officers and disciplinary committee and college authorities was sufficient to show that there is gross negligence and omission on their part which may be treated as act of abetment to commit suicide on the part of the university officials, which finally resulted in her suicide," the right panel report further indicts.

The NHRC also found that the Nepalese students were ill-treated by the university officials with abusive and derogatory remarks.

"The registrar of university Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty and other witnesses have admitted that two administrative officers namely Jayanti Nath and Manjusha Pandey had misbehaved with Nepalese students and remarks made by them were improper, unacceptable and cannot be appreciated. Later, they said university officials were suspended, which itself proved that the shortcomings and negligence were on the part of university officials," the investigating team of NHRC said in the report.

"Regrettably, the university was unrepentant and even had the audacity to reply that there had been no merit in the allegations. This manifests sheer insensitivity, if not downright arrogance," it observed.

Jadavpur University V-C ordered out by Governor

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Bhaskar Gupta, Vice-Chancellor of Jadavpur University, has been removed from his duties after an order was issued from the West Bengal Governor's office on Thursday.

This comes after month-long protests on the university premises, with students boycotting classes and the V-C missing from action, raising questions about his role in handling the escalation.

Mr. Gupta's official tenure was supposed to end on March 31, but the Governor's order removed him with immediate effect.

During his tenure, Mr. Gupta has faced many challenges, including the student unrest which started on March 1, when students and West Bengal State Education Minister Bratya Basu engaged in a face-off. The students were demanding a fair student union election, but things took a violent turn when a student was run over by the Minister's car and sustained major injuries.

Students had demanded an audience with the V-C after the incident, but he cited health reasons and did not set foot on the campus for over two weeks.

One in five parents in India faces parenting challenges: CBSE survey

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

With a view to strengthen parent-child-school partnerships across India, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has designed a parenting calendar that proposes a series of orientations and initiatives to provide holistic support to students and parents, aligning with the National Education Policy, 2020. The calendar was designed based on a survey of parents.

The survey conducted by the CBSE garnered responses from 13,000 parents across India, including from Delhi, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Ladakh and Manipur, with 69.6% of the respondents being mothers, 28.2% being fathers and 2.1% guardians.

The survey indicated that while the parents felt confident in managing their children's education and behaviour, many still required structured guidance, resources, and support from schools. Strengthening parent-school collaboration through workshops, teacher engagement, and accessible parenting resources can bridge the existing gaps, ensuring a more holistic approach to child development, it said.

Strengthening parent-school collaboration can ensure a more holistic approach to child development, the survey says. M.A. SRIRAM

According to the survey, 19.7% of parents, or around one in five, indicated that they were still navigating challenges of parenting; 43.5% believed they fully understood the impact of their parenting choices on their child's growth; 36.8% expressed a desire to learn more; 12.3% said they sought guidance to help their child build social skills and relationships; 10.9% sought help in managing their own emotions and their children, and 11% said they sought help in setting rules, boundaries and encouraging the child.

Other areas of concern where parents sought guidance were guiding the child with patience and positive feedback (12.1%), communicating effectively with children (11.1%), guiding their child with patience and positive feedback (7.5%), saying no respectfully without causing conflict (9.5%), supporting academic learning (13.7%), and time management as well as study habits (11.8%).

While 54.4% of parents felt confident in managing behavioural issues, 40.1% struggled at times, and 5.5% required more support. In academics, 53.5% of parents felt assured, while 40.9% reported occasional difficulties, and 5.6% needed additional help.

Mamata's speech at Oxford disrupted as protesters raise R.G. Kar controversy

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's address at an Oxford Institution was disrupted on Thursday as protesters raised questions on the rape and murder of a doctor at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital and other issues relating to the State during her speech.

Ms. Banerjee was delivering a lecture on "Social development - girl, child and women empowerment in West Bengal", when about six people from the audience stood up and raised posters.

When the protesters raised the incident at the R.G. Kar hospital, the Chief Minister started answering them in the middle of her speech. "You know the case is *sub judice*, and the Central government has taken over it. It is not with us. Please do not do politics here, this platform is not for politics. That you can do in my State, not here," Ms. Banerjee said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during a visit to the University of Oxford on Thursday. PTI

Mamata challenges Left

Later as the commotion continued, the Chief Minister identified the protesters as "left and ultra-left and communal friends". "You are lying. Don't do it, brother. I have special affection for you. Do not make it a political platform. If you want to make it a political platform, you go to Bengal and tell your political party to become even stronger, to fight against communal people," she said.

The U.K. unit of the Students' Federation of India took to social media and said that the protests were organised by it. "We openly opposed her blatant lies by asking her to provide evidence of the social development she claims to have pioneered in West Bengal. Instead of allowing us to peacefully express our opinions, the police were called," said a statement by the SFI- UK on 'X'.

The students wing of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said they questioned the Chief Minister "on her statements of victim-blaming and lethargy against the R.G. Kar incident."

At the Kellogg College, as the protesters held posters with questions directed to the Chief Minister, she held a photograph showing her injured and covered with bandage.

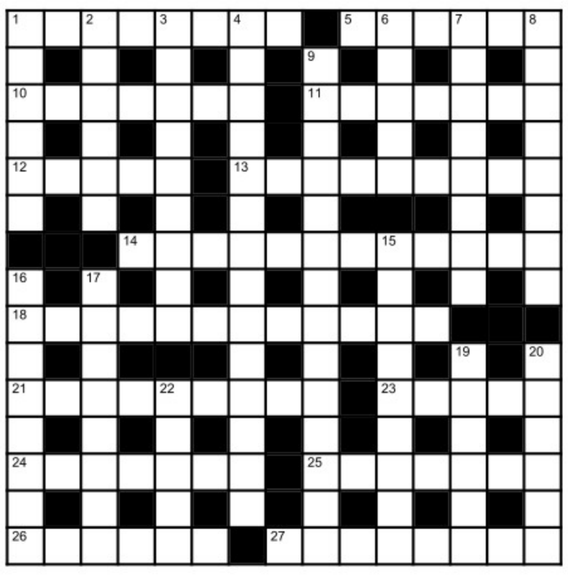
"I will answer you, first see my picture, how an attempt was made to kill me. You should give me a chance to speak. You are not insulting me, you are disrespecting your institution. These people do this everywhere. They do it wherever I go," Ms. Banerjee said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14445

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Stubborn criminal sprinted abruptly, shot outside (8)
5 Good long ride, flying engineless plane (6)
10 Medicine resolved onset of autism and tic (7)
11 Excludes clips screening racism to begin with (7)
12 Heroin consumed by English drunkard knocking back spirit (5)
13 Conclusive trials by department in treatment of tense ascites (4,5)
14 Bullfighter in a red robe, jumping over large bull's back (12)
18 See 2 Down
21 Disorder of retina and back pain, among other things (5,4)
23 Malicious nationalist in party (5)
24 Recalled unusual deluge resulting in disease affecting cattle (7)
25 Leader of Iran turned Reagan furious (2,1,4)
26 Heartless devilry by most vicious hereditary ruler (6)
27 Desirable guy entering, not European for sure (2,6)

Down

1 Bird behind entrance to coop is chicken (6)
2/18 Less than 12 old pence, stupid (3,3,4,8)
3 Original tracks covered by most promising musicians (4,5)
4 English novelist and wild girl rapidly drink rum at centre (7,7)
6 Engage in prostitution? Not very legal (5)
7 Undertake to badger person who analyses and forecasts future events (8)
8 Electrical device in resort is faulty (8)
9 One billion put into field trial on new treatment for cardiac arrhythmias (14)
15 View boys stealing new cloak (9)
16 Testified about fellow getting sacked after stealing money (8)
17 Fine tailor assembled new device for pressing clothes (8)
19 Group in a tavern restraining one getting smashed at a bash? (6)
20 Guard in retreat catches fellow beginning to escape with diamonds (6)
22 Republican rows and yells (5)

SUDOKU

		4			3			7
8			9	7	4			
	7		8	6				
					1		5	8
		2				6		
6	8		3					
				1	9		8	
			7	5	8			3
5			2			4		

No.SS6473 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

B	O	I	L	D	O	W	N	I	S	O	M	E	R
U	M	I	O	P	W	E	E
S	T	A	G	G	E	R	L	O	U	V	R	E	S
T	G	N	C	A	N	I	P
U	T	E	R	I	E	L	S	E	G	U	N	D	O
P	D	F	S	T	G	N
H	I	T	T	H	E	G	R	O	U	N	D
S	H	E	E	R	E	E	S
T	H	U	N	D	E	R	B	O	L	T	S
O	A	S	F	I	A	R
O	W	N	E	R	S	H	I	P	C	I	R	C	A
P	G	U	I	A	E	T	G
I	N	S	A	N	E	R	R	U	N	N	I	N	G
N	H	E	E	I	C	S	E
G	R	I	L	S	E	A	S	S	E	R	T	E	D

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	3	8	9	7	5	1	4	2
4	2	7	1	8	3	9	6	5
5	1	9	2	6	4	7	8	3
9	4	6	3	2	7	8	5	1
8	5	1	6	4	9	3	2	7
2	7	3	8	5	1	6	9	4
1	9	5	4	3	6	2	7	8
3	8	4	7	9	2	5	1	6
7	6	2	5	1	8	4	3	9

FAITH

Divine and demoniac

Lord Krishna tells Arjuna that there are two types of beings in this world: the divine and the demoniac. Chapter 16 of the *Bhagavad Gita* discusses the attributes of both at length. Valayapettai Sri. Ramachariar narrated the different features of the two groups in a discourse. Some of the characteristics of the divine beings are purity of mind, devotion to meditation, worship, alms-giving, self-control, and conscientiousness. They study the Vedas and abstain from causing injury to others. They adhere to simplicity, speak the truth, develop no anger, won't slur others, practise renunciation and equanimity, show mercy to all, refrain from vacillation, and remain free from desires. Also, purity of thought, patience and endurance are present in them. They will have no fear because they will not be associated with the objects of aversion.

Some of the qualities of a demoniac being are ostentation, arrogance, immodesty, and rudeness. They know no renunciation, proper conduct or truth. They indulge in cruel deeds to destroy the world. Their highest aim is the enjoyment of worldly pleasures. They are full of pride, and will unfairly amass wealth. They are deluded by ignorance and are intoxicated by wealth, pride, and vanity.

Lord Krishna says desire, anger, and greed are the triple gateways to hell, and ruinous to the self. A person should abandon these. The main reason for this dissipation is a lack of belief in sastras – the authority for deciding what should be done and what should not be (*Tasmat sastram pramanam tey* Chapter 16-sloka 24.)

The divine ones are on the path to liberation, while the demoniacs are subjected to repeated births and deaths.

INBRIEF

Banks to raise ATM charges to ₹23/withdrawal after free use

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed banks to raise charges on ATM cash withdrawals by ₹2 to ₹23 per transaction beyond the mandatory monthly free transactions. The higher fee will be effective May 1, as per an RBI circular. Customers are eligible for five free transactions – inclusive of financial and non-financial transactions – every month from their own bank ATMs. They are also eligible for free transactions – inclusive of financial and non-financial transactions – from other bank ATMs viz. three in metro and five in non-metro centres.

Ashok Leyland bags Army contracts worth ₹700 crore

Ashok Leyland, the Indian flagship of the Hinduja Group, on Friday announced that its defence business had won multiple orders valued at more than ₹700 crore to supply a range of logistics vehicles to the Indian Army and that deliveries would commence in the next financial year. "The vehicles to be supplied under these orders are to fulfill defence sector needs of troop transportation, logistics, and other specialised mobility requirements under the Close-in Weapon Systems (CIWS) programme," the company said in a statement.

Air India Express projects 50% passenger growth in FY26

Air India Express, the low-cost arm of Air India, has projected a 50% growth in passenger traffic for the financial year 2026, taking the total number to 30 million, according to its CEO Aloke Singh. The airline ferried approximately 20 million passengers in financial year 2025, when it witnessed a growth of 19%. The same year it added 37 aircraft and grew its fleet size to a total of 103 aircraft and strengthened its route network by adding nine destinations to take the total to 53 destinations. Total routes rose from 140 to 210.

Cabinet okays ₹22,919 crore scheme for electronics component manufacturing

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved a ₹22,919-crore Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme for a period of six years, Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw announced.

The scheme is the next step in the government's electronics manufacturing efforts, which have so far focused on setting up semiconductor fabrication units and IT hardware, along with finished goods like mobile phones.

"Passive component and sub-assembly manufacturing will increase domestic value addition," Mr. Vaishnaw told media-persons.

Unlike past schemes, this scheme would not be based on production-linked incentive, where manufacturers would be rewarded for incremental manufacturing, he added.

Instead, they would receive incentives pegged to the factory's turnover, as well as in employment creation. The target is to induce ₹59,350 crore in investments, production worth ₹4,56,500 crore, and the creation of 91,600 direct jobs in the coming years. Active components refer to semiconductors and other critical components. This scheme is targeted at sub-assemblies such as controllers for displays and phone cameras, and for 'bare components' which include circuit boards, hardware enclosures, and lithium-ion batteries, Mr. Vaishnaw said.

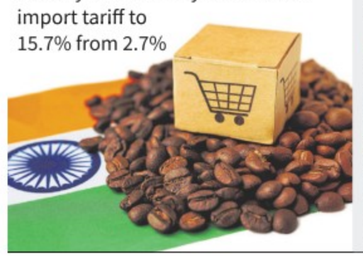
'India unlikely to go in for across-the-board tariff cuts'

Government may instead work around reciprocal tariffs by easing non-tariff barriers, which include expanding purchases from the U.S., according to economists at Barclays Research

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

India is not likely to opt for across-the-board tariff reduction and may instead work around reciprocal tariffs by easing non-tariff barriers, according to economists at Barclays Research. "A reciprocal, like-to-like tariff by the U.S. may increase India's import tariff to 15.7% from the current 2.7%, covering almost all exports," according to the note.

A way to work around this would be easing non-tariff barriers, which may include expanding purchases from the U.S., according to Barclays.



It may be noted that U.S. President Donald Trump had said that non-monetary barriers would face retaliation with the same type of trade barrier.

The U.S. constituted 18% of India's merchandise exports in 2024, while this was only 1.6% of U.S.'s overall imports. The difference between India's import tariff on the U.S. and vice versa is 6.5%, according to a Nomura report. This is the highest among emerging economies, it said.

The most affected would be agricultural exports, where the tariff differential is high – while India charges 40% on an average on U.S. imports, the U.S. charges just 2.9% on India's exports. Economists at Barclays estimate that India could face a 2.3% higher weighted import duty on agri products.

"Our analysis suggests that India possibly does not need to reduce import tariffs for some agricultural products, even with the looming threat of reciprocal tariffs," the Barclays economists said.

Core sector growth slows to 2.9% in February from 7.1%

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

However, fertilizer and cement output rose 10.2% and 10.5% respectively in February this year

The output of eight key infrastructure sectors slowed to a five-month low of 2.9% in February as against 7.1% growth registered a year earlier, according to official data released on Friday.

On a monthly basis, the growth rate in the production of these sectors was lower than the 5.1% expansion recorded in January.

The previous low level of growth of 2.4% was recorded in September. In February, production of crude oil and natural gas recorded negative growth.

The production growth of coal, refinery products, steel and electricity moderated to 1.7%, 0.8%, 5.6%, and 2.8%, respectively, against 11.6%, 2.6%, 9.4% and 7.6% in February last.

However, fertilizer and cement output rose 10.2% and 10.5% respectively.

Core sector growth was 4.4% during April-February this fiscal against 7.8%.

Core sector contributes 40.27% to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

'Coffee output likely to be higher in 2026 than last two years'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

India's coffee production for the crop year ending March is likely to be 3.52 lakh metric tonnes, while the yield for next year is expected to be much higher than the last two years as most plantations have already received adequate blossom showers helping a healthy berry setting, said Coffee Board CEO and Secretary K. G. Jagadeesha

However, he said, nature plays a critical role in coffee farming and if plantations get 6-7 months without a dry spell, next year's yield would be substantially higher than the last two years. Quoting International Coffee Organisation, the CEO said global coffee prices were likely to stay high for one more year as most major producing nations experienced climate change.

Global coffee prices are likely to stay high for one more year, says the CEO. FILE PHOTO

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	77,415	-0.25
US Dollar	85.50	0.27
Gold	92,150	1.20
Brent oil	73.51	-0.31

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2315.80	-47.55
Adani Ports	1182.95	-13.80
Apollo Hosp	6616.20	124.15
Asian Paints	2340.65	2.55
Axis Bank	1102.00	3.65
Bajaj Auto	7878.85	-95.45
Bajaj Finserv	2007.35	1.60
Bajaj Finance	8945.60	-58.25
Bharat Elec	301.32	0.67
Bharti Airtel	1733.40	8.70
Cipla	1442.20	-40.70
Coal India	398.20	1.35
Dr Reddys Lab	1144.20	-18.00
Eicher Motors	5347.70	1.95
Grasim Ind	2611.15	-7.55
HCL Tech	1592.50	-37.65
HDFC Bank	1828.20	2.85
HDFC Life	685.70	3.80
Hero MotoCorp	3722.95	-49.10
Hindalco	682.45	-10.90
Hind Unilever	2258.85	14.20
ICICI Bank	1348.35	11.70
IndusInd Bank	649.85	-23.70
Infosys	1570.65	-32.90
ITC	409.75	0.30
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	227.51	1.73
JSW Steel	1063.20	3.45
Kotak Bank	2171.20	42.55
L&T	3492.30	-9.30
M&M	2665.80	-67.20
Maruti Suzuki	11522.15	-199.80
NestleIndia	2250.75	8.70
NTPC	357.60	-3.05
ONGC	246.38	4.21
PowerGrid Corp	290.35	-5.15
Reliance Ind	1275.10	-3.10
SBI Life	1547.85	2.95
State Bank	771.50	-0.80
Shriram Finance Ltd.	656.00	-22.50
Sun Pharma	1734.70	3.25
TataConsumerProduct	1001.90	28.35
Tata Motors	674.45	5.90
Tata Steel	154.24	-1.18
TCS	3606.15	-45.05
Tech Mahindra	1418.25	-5.65
Titan	3063.35	-24.30
Trent Ltd.	5325.15	-97.15
UltraTech Cement	11509.55	-90.05
Wipro	262.25	-9.95
Zomato Ltd.	201.70	-4.58

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 28

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	85.27	85.59
Euro	91.90	92.24
British Pound	110.31	110.73
Japanese Yen (100)	56.61	56.83
Chinese Yuan	11.74	11.78
Swiss Franc	96.63	97.00
Singapore Dollar	63.53	63.78
Canadian Dollar	59.55	59.78
Malaysian Ringitt	19.20	19.31
Australian Dollar	53.70	53.90

Source:Indian Bank

Government of Karnataka
(KARNATAKA RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DEPARTMENT)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION, DIVISION KALABURGI-585105,
No:EE/RDW&SD/Tech/2024-25/2249 Dated : 26-3-2025
E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Executive Engineer Rural Drinking water & Sanitation division, Kalaburagi on behalf of Honorable Governor, Karnataka here by invites separate Technical & Financial tender from the Hiring Empanelment of Third-Party Inspection Agency under Jal Jeevan Mission and other works by Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department in Kalaburagi Division Kalaburagi district under **"Jal Jeevan Mission"** detailed as below
The Tender Document with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and should be submitted through KPPP system only.
1) Name of work: Hiring Empanelment of Third-Party Inspection Agency under Jal Jeevan Mission and other works by Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department in Kalaburagi Division Kalaburagi district, 2) Head of A/C: **Jal Jeevan Mission**, 3) Amount put to tender : **Min Rs. 82,95,800-00, Max Rs. 82,95,800-00,** 4) Eligibility of Contractor: As per bid document, 5) Date of Commencement of downloading of Bidding document: **28-03-2025 11:00am**, 6) Cost of tender form and EMD: As per E-portal, 7) Pre bid meeting Date: **05-04-2025 11:00 am** Venue: As per KPPP, 8) Last Date to submit bids on e-portal: **08-04-2025 4.00pm**, 9) Opening of Techincal Bid: **09-04-2025 4.01pm**, 10) Opening of Financial Bid: **11-04-2025 11:00am**, 11) Address for any clarification reg.tender: Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division, PRE division 1st floor Kusanoor road Kalaburagi
Sd/- Executive Engineer
RDW&S Division, Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1154/KSMC&A/2024-25

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-02/1142/2024-25 Date: 28.03.2025
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
KIADB invites tenders from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for project mentioned below:-
Name of the works : Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) Including Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan, Design, Preparation of Estimates, Cost Structure etc., for the proposed Jangamakote Industrial Area at Sidlaghatta Taluk of Chikkaballapura District. (Extent 2823.12 A). (Call-2).
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **16.04.2025** upto **4.00 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/5975/Zen/2024-25 **Chief Engineer-1, KIADB, Bengaluru**

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि., सम्भाग कोटा
क्रमांक 3433 दिनांक: 21.03.2025
संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या-24/2024-25
इस कार्यालय के निविदा सूचना संख्या 24/2024-25 के पत्रांक 3358 दिनांक 12.03.2025 के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा में अपिहार्य कारणों से निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र. सं.	पूर्व में	अब यह पढ़ा जावे
1	Notice Inviting Bid के पृष्ठ में Bids for Important works in District Bundi Year 2024-25 PWD Zone Kota	Notice Inviting Bid के पृष्ठ में Bids for ITI Infrastructure Facilities and Building Renovation work in Circle Kota Year 2024-25 PWD Zone Kota

UNB No. PWD2425WLOB16944
निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेगी। DIPR/C/4262/2025
(निशु गुप्ता), अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

कार्यालय प्रधानाचार्य, पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय मेडिकल कॉलेज, चूरू
website: www.education.rajasthan.gov.in/mcchuru
Email:- principal.mc.churu@rajasthan.gov.in, Phone:- 01562-251888
क्रमांकः- लेखा/ निविदा/ENT Equipment/2025/825 दिनांकः 21.03.2025
NIT 10/2024-25
(UBN No. -MCC2425GLOB00010)
Online Bid for Supply of ENT Equipments are invited from interested bidders up to 05 PM on dated 14.04.2025 for Medical College, Churu. The estimated value of procurement is about Rs. 2,10,60,000/-. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement Portal http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in of the State, https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
Principal
DIPR/C/4290/25 **PDU Medical College, Churu**

AJMER VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Corporate Identification Number (CIN)-U40109RJ2000SGC016482
Regd. Off. Vidyut Bhawan, Panchsheel Nagar, Makarwali Road, Ajmer
Phone: 0145-2644517, E-mail-revenue.discom24@gmail.com,
Website-http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avvnl
No. :- AVVNL/CAO(ER-WM)/AO(Rev)/F(2024-25)/D. 7217 Dated :- 27/03/2025
E-Bids in two parts (Techno commercial bid and Price Bid) are invited from eligible bidders for providing Online payment Gateway & Bharat Bill Payment Services (BBPS) to AVVNL consumers in domain of Ajmer Discom under TN01 for FY 2024-25. All the details regarding tender is available at our website **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avvnl** and **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.** In future corrigendum/extension, if any shall be published only at website **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avvnl** and **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. NIB Code :- AVV2425A0165**
Raj.Samwad/C/24/14176 **Chief Accounts Officer (ER&WM)**

RAJASTHAN STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Rajasthan Government Undertaking)
Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur- 302005, Phone- 0141-2227751, 4593201
E-mail: riico@riico.co.in Website-http://www.riico.co.in
TENDER NOTICE
RIICO invites sealed tenders/bids through eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for the following works/ services/supply etc.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.in Lacs)
1.	**Unit Head, Bhilwara**	
1.1	Widening of PWD Approach Road from NH-48 Rupaheli Bhatta to Industrial Area Ukhaliya. **UBN-RDC2425WLOB01681**	664.56
2.	**Unit Head, Boranada**	
2.1	Providing, Laying and Shifting of Power Line at Industrial Area Kakani. **UBN-RDC2425WLOB01704**	1248.00
3.	**Unit Head, Ghiloth**	
3.1	SITC of RMU and Associate Cabling Work and 11 KV O/H Line Shifting by Laying of Underground Cable Work at I/A Ghiloth. **UBN-RDC2425WSOB01705**	312.64
3.2	Improvement of Approach Road by Constructing CC Road from NH-48 to I/A Ghiloth. **UBN-RDC2425WLOB01762**	1699.09
4.	**Unit Head, Ajmer**	
4.1	Construction of CC Road, RCC Divider and Recarpeting of Roads at I/A Ajaymeru Palra. **UBN-RDC2425WSOB01724**	404.95
5.	**Unit Head, Balotra**	
5.1	Providing, Laying & Shifting of Power Line at Industrial Area Chauhtan. **UBN-RDC2425WSOB01733**	242.66
6.	**Unit Head, Jaipur(Rural)**	
6.1	Development Works of Industrial Area Bichoon, Jaipur Along with Operation & Maintenance for 10 Years. **UBN-RDC2425WLOB01760**	10209.90
7.	**Unit Head, Bhiwadi-II**	
7.1	Providing and Fixing of Street Light at I/A Salarpur and Residential Zone Salarpur, Unit-Bhiwadi-II. **UBN-RDC2425WSOB01763**	1108.39

Bidders/contractors may download and submit tender online. Detailed information of tenders and any kind of corrigendum/ date extension, if any in future, may be seen by bidders on websites http://www.riico.co.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in For queries please contact: GM (Civil) Ph. 0141-4593243 Raj.Samwad/C/24/14177

RIS@40
RIS
Research and Information System for Developing Countries
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली
CMEC
Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity
समुद्री अर्थव्यवस्था व संयोजन केंद्र
The Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC) at Research and Information System for developing countries (RIS) conducts Research in Maritime sector with reference to engagements with other maritime nations / regions / alliances, as well as India's growth in the maritime sectors elaborated in the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision (MAKV) -2047 and Maritime India Vision (MIV) – 2030. Details in respect of CMEC may be seen at www.ris.org.in/cmec
CMEC is looking for Consultant (Maritime Logistics & Supply Chains)
Further details can be viewed from the RIS website : www.ris.org.in

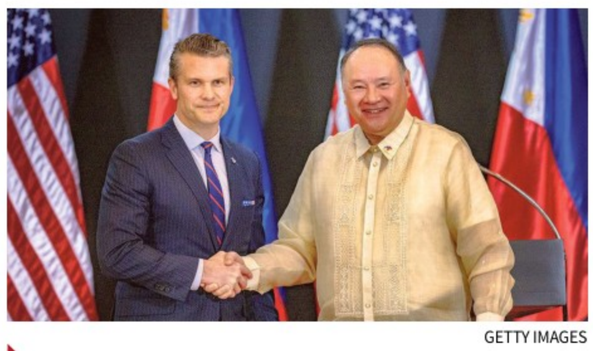
ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF LAKSHADWEEP
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES)
KAVARATTI ISLAND-682 555
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF VARIOUS FACULTIES FOR GOVT. NURSING COLLEGE, KAVARATTI U.T.OF LAKSHADWEEP
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up of the following faculties required for the Govt. Nursing College, at Kavaratti, U.T of Lakshadweep, Kavaratti purely on short term contract basis till 31.05.2025, likely to be extended if the Lakshadweep Administration so desires. The place of posting will be at Kavaratti island of Lakshadweep. The candidates should submit their application in the prescribed format (Annexure-A & B) through the e-mail to gnckavaratti@gmail.com on or before **07.04.2025 at 5.00 PM** with self attested copies of all relevant credentials shown below. Applications received after the stipulated date and time will not be considered for attending the interview **(Online).**

Sl. No.	Name of post	No. of post	Minimum qualification required with experience	Specialty	Consolidated pay per month
1	Principal Cum Professor	1	15 years experience with M.Sc.(N) out of which 10 years after M.Sc (N) in collegiate program. (Ph.D (N) is desirable)	Any Specialty Preferably Mental Health Nursing	Rs.100000/-
2.	Associate Professor	1	M.Sc (N) with 8 year experience including 5 years teaching experience Ph.D (N) desirable		Rs.80000/-
3.	Assistant Professor	1	M.Sc (N) with 3 year teaching experience. Ph.D(N) desirable		Rs.55000/-

Check list (final) shall be published on 14.04.2025 at **www.lakshadweep.gov.in.** The short listed candidates may attend the interview physically/virtually. The link of the interview will be communicated in due course.
The date and time of the interview shall be intimated to the candidates through e-mail id
The candidates selected shall execute a bond to declare that, he/she will work as in the Govt. Nursing College, Kavaratti, Lakshadweep for a mentioned period and will not leave the assignment before the completion of contract mentioned period. If he/she leaves before stipulated months they are liable to remit back the salary of two months to the department and a bound also to be executed in that effect on appointment.
This issue is with the approval of Secretary (Health) vide Note #150 Dated 13.03.2025
(DR.SHRIKANT R TAPDIYA, DANICS)
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES

MANILA

U.S. defence chief says stronger deterrence needed against China

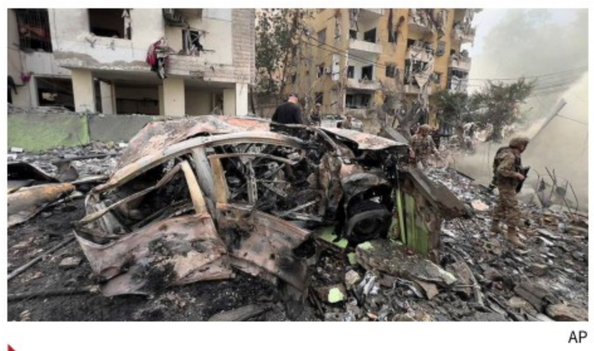


GETTY IMAGES

U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, during his first trip to Asia, said on Friday that the Trump administration would boost military ties with the Philippines to strengthen deterrence against "threats from the communist Chinese" and ensure freedom of navigation in the disputed South China Sea. AP

BEIRUT

Israel strikes Beirut for the first time since Nov. 2024 ceasefire



AP

Israel on Friday launched its first strike on Beirut since the November 2024 ceasefire, targeting a Hezbollah drone depot in the Dahiyeh suburb. The attack followed rocket fire into northern Israel, which Hezbollah denied responsibility for. Residents evacuated as tensions escalated. AP

TEHRAN

Iran says it has responded to Trump's nuclear talks letter

AFP

Iran responded to U.S. President Trump's letter proposing nuclear talks and warning of military action if Iran refuses, its Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Thursday. Delivered via Oman, the response emphasised indirect negotiations under sanctions and threats. Mr. Trump seeks a new deal amid escalating pressure. AFP

ISTANBUL

Türkiye detains more journalists in dawn searches after protests

REUTERS

Two journalists, Elif Bayburt and Nisa Suda Demirel, were detained in Istanbul during dawn searches on Friday amid Türkiye's crackdown on protests following Opposition Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu's arrest. Over 1,900 people have been detained, with police accused of suppressing dissent and targeting media. AP

Powerful earthquake kills over 150 people in Myanmar and Thailand

The 7.7-magnitude temblor struck near Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city, followed by a 6.4-magnitude aftershock; in Bangkok in Thailand, at least eight people were killed and dozens trapped under a 30-storey building under construction

Associated Press
BANGKOK

A powerful earthquake rocked Myanmar and neighbouring Thailand on Friday, destroying buildings, a bridge and a dam. At least 144 people were killed in Myanmar, where photos and video from two hard-hit cities showed extensive damage. At least eight died in the Thai capital, where a high-rise under construction collapsed.

The 7.7 magnitude quake, with an epicentre near Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city, struck at midday and was followed by a strong 6.4 magnitude aftershock.

Extensive damage: A collapsed building in Mandalay on Friday after a powerful earthquake rocked central Myanmar. AFP

The full extent of death, injury and destruction was not immediately clear – particularly in Myanmar, one of the world's poorest countries. It is embroiled in a civil war and information is tightly controlled.

The head of Myanmar's military government said in the televised speech on Friday evening that at least 144 people were killed and 730 others were injured.

"The death toll and injuries are expected to rise," Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing said.

Myanmar's government said blood was in high demand in the hardest-hit areas. Images of buckled and cracked roads in Mandalay and damaged highways as well as the collapse of a bridge and dam raised further concerns about how rescuers would even reach some areas in a country already enduring a widespread humanitarian crisis.

In Bangkok, at least three people were killed in the building collapse and 90 were missing, according to Defence Minister Phumtham Wechayachai. He offered no more details about the ongoing rescue efforts but first responders said that seven people had been rescued so far from the area.

At least two of the dead were construction workers who were killed by falling rubble or debris, rescue worker Songwut Wangpon told reporters. The building was being built by the China Railway Construction Corporation for Thailand's government auditor general.

Elsewhere, people in Bangkok evacuated from their buildings were cautioned to stay outside in case there were more aftershocks.

Putin floats idea of UN-led government for Ukraine

Associated Press
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed on Friday to put Ukraine under external governance under the UN aegis as part of efforts to reach a peaceful settlement, a blustery statement that reflected the Kremlin leader's determination to achieve his war goals.

Speaking to the crew of a Russian nuclear submarine in televised remarks broadcast early Friday, Mr. Putin reaffirmed his claim that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whose term expired last year, lacks the legitimacy to sign a peace deal. Under Ukraine's constitution it is illegal for the country to hold national elections while it is under martial law.

Mr. Putin claimed that

Vladimir Putin

any agreement that is signed with the current Ukrainian government could be challenged by its successors and said new elections could be held under external governance.

"Under the auspices of the United Nations, with the United States, even with European countries, and, of course, with our partners and friends, we could discuss the possibility of introduction of temporary governance in Ukraine," Mr. Putin said, adding that it would allow the country to "hold democratic elections, to bring to power a viable government that enjoys the trust of the people, and then begin negotiations with them on a peace treaty".

He added that such external governance is just "one of the options," without elaborating.

Mr. Putin's remarks came hours after the conclusion of a summit hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron that considered plans to deploy troops to Ukraine to cement an eventual peace deal. Mr. Macron said "several" other nations want to be part of the force alongside France and Britain. Russia has warned it would not accept any troops from NATO members.

Hasina accused of plotting to overthrow interim government

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladeshi police said on Friday they had filed a new criminal case against ousted premier Sheikh Hasina over an alleged plot to overthrow the government that replaced her. Ms. Hasina is currently exiled in neighbouring India, after she was overthrown last August.

Numerous criminal indictments have been issued against her and top loyalists of her Awami League party.

The latest case centres on a virtual meeting attended by nearly 600 Awami League members in December, which police said had conspired to "wage civil war in Bangladesh" with the aim of restoring Ms. Hasina to power.

Police spokesperson Jasim Uddin Khan said that charges had initially been filed against Ms. Hasina and 72 others, but that the number of defendants may increase as the investigation progressed.

Bangladesh welcomes China to participate in Teesta project

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh on Friday welcomed Chinese participation in the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project. Bangladesh's assurance was communicated during the ongoing visit of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus to China. The two sides also signed an agreement on exchange of hydrological information of the Yarlung Zangbo-Jamuna (Brahmaputra) River. In a joint statement issued after the end of the official discussion, the two sides announced that Bangladesh and China have agreed to start discussion for a Free Trade Agreement "at an early date".

"The two sides agreed to promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, strengthen international cooperation on industrial and supply chains and work together to achieve modernisation in both countries," the Joint Statement said. They also extended support to the "core issues" relevant to both sides, and Bangladesh reiterated its support for the "one China policy".

Apart from addressing the Boao Forum annual meeting in Hainan, Mr. Yunus also met President Xi Jinping in Beijing. Mr. Yunus met a group of Chinese traders and investors for a high-level round table at the Presidential Hotel in Beijing on Friday.

"Bangladesh reiterated its firm commitment to the One-China principle and its position that China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory," the Joint Statement stated. Bangladesh expressed appreciation to China for creating convenient conditions for the treatment of medical tourists from Bangladesh in the Yunnan province.

Muhammad Yunus

"China consistently adheres to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, respects Bangladesh's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, supports Bangladesh in safeguarding its national independence, respects the development path independently chosen by the people of Bangladesh, and supports Bangladesh in exploring a development path suited to its own national conditions," said the Joint Statement. Bangladesh has assured China that together they will advocate an "equal and orderly multipolar world".

The two sides have also assured that they will start negotiations on optimising the China-Bangladesh Investment Agreement. The Joint Statement informed that Bangladesh has welcomed Chinese companies to participate in the Mongla Port Facilities Modernisation and Expansion Project. That apart, the two sides stand ready to cooperate in "further" developing the Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone in Chittagong.

The year 2025 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relation between Bangladesh and China and the two sides resolved to deepen exchanges on this occasion on "culture, tourism, media, education, health care and youth." They also agreed to deepen cooperation in blue economy and announced that they will hold a new round of Dialogue on Maritime Cooperation "at an appropriate time.

Sport

Snehit pulls off a big upset, books a meeting with Sharath for a place in the quarterfinals

WTT STAR CONTENDER

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Sharath Kamal and S.F.R. Snehit were on song at the WTT Star Contender at the Nehru Indoor Stadium here on Friday. The two couldn't have asked for a better outing to perform to their best in front of the home crowd.

Sharath has few parallels in India when he is at his best. The 42-year-old showed Nicholas Lum, the 19-year-old Australian, what he can deliver by dispatching him 11-8, 11-8, 11-9. Sharath's farewell tournament is turning out to be one of his best.

Going strong: Sharath proved too good for the 19-year-old Lum. R. RAVINDRAN

Late in the day, Snehit counterattacked to rally and outwit world No. 29 Yukiya Uda 8-11, 11-13, 11-9, 11-7, 12-10. Snehit will next play Sharath for a place in the quarterfinals.

The top seed Tomokazu Harimoto of Japan was given a minor scare before he put it across his compatriot Maharu Yoshimura 11-3, 11-3, 8-11, 7-11, 11-9.

There were plenty of upsets as eight seeds in the men's – An Jaehyun (6), Yukiya Uda (7), Lum (10), Quadri Aruna (4), Finn Lu (11), Wong Chun Ting (13), Alvaro Robles (9) and Hwan Bae (14) – and two in the women's section – Manika Batra (9) and Sreeja Akula (10) – bit the dust.

The 24-year-old Snehit, with a world ranking of 123, put up a gallant show against Uda. Against a player with a powerful forehand, Snehit counterattacked after losing the first two games. In the decider, Uda led 8-6 and took a time-out. Uda then had three matchpoints at 10-7 before Snehit won five points on the trot to script a sensational comeback.

"I came prepared. I took time to adjust to his speed. This is my biggest win," Snehit said.

The results (second round):

Men: Omar Assar (Egy) bt Kwan Man Ho (Hkg) 4-11, 11-7, 11-3, 12-10; Sharath Kamal bt Nicholas Lum (Aus) 11-8, 11-8, 11-9; Manav Thakkar bt Finn Lu (Aus) 11-4, 7-11, 11-5, 11-8; Snehit bt Yukiya Uda (Jpn) 8-11, 11-13, 11-9, 11-7, 12-10 ; Andre Bertelsmeier (Ger) bt An Jaehyun (Kor) 13-11, 11-8, 9-11, 12-10; Sora Matsushima (Jpn) bt Payas Jain 11-5, 11-1, 10-12, 11-7; Feng Yi-Hsin (Tpe) bt Quadri Aruna (Ngr) 13-11, 11-8, 11-8.

Jonathan Groth (Den) bt Harmeet Desai 11-6, 11-7, 12-10; Tomokazu Harimoto (Jpn) bt Maharu Yoshimura (Jpn) 11-3, 11-3, 8-11, 7-11, 11-9.

Women: Huang Yu-Jie (Tpe) bt Manika Batra 11-7, 12-10, 7-11, 11-9; Kavya Bhatt bt Miyuu Kihara (Jpn) 11-3, 11-9, 11-5; Joo Cheonhui (Kor) bt Ayhika Mykherjee 16-14, 11-4, 11-5.

Shin Yubin (Kor) bt Divyanshi Bhowmick 11-13, 11-4, 11-7, 12-10; Adriana Diaz (Pur) bt Syndrela Das 11-7, 11-9, 11-5; Krittwika Roy bt Sreeja Akula 11-6, 11-9, 6-11, 4-11, 11-7; Sakura Yokoi (Jpn) bt Diya Chitale 11-8, 11-9, 11-6.

With semifinal spot at stake, can Bengaluru press home the advantage against Mumbai City?

ISL

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Two years after the infamous walkout by Kerala Blasters, the Sree Kanteerava Stadium will play host to another single-legged playoff with Bengaluru FC welcoming Mumbai City FC on Saturday.

At stake is a place in the ISL semifinal against FC Goa, and at least on paper, host BFC seems better equipped to bag that. Forward Jorge Pereyra Diaz is back after a two-month layoff; goalie Gurpreet Singh Sandhu is fresh after not being part of the India set-up against Maldives and Bangladesh, and defender Aleksandar Jovanovic will hope to make his final ISL season before retirement memorable.

The attacking trio of Alberto Noguera, Edgar Mendez and Ryan Williams will hope to work its magic even as talisman Sunil Chhetri will be eager for his 40-year-old body to recover in time after nearly 170 minutes of international football in a week.

Mumbai, on the other hand, is expected to have key personnel out. Defender Tiri is unlikely to play; midfielder Brandon Fernandes got injured against Maldives and Lallianzuala Chhangte missed all of the action in the international window.

Much will depend on striker Nikolaos Karelis, who has scored 10 goals.

However, the fact that Mumbai has won more on the road this season than at home can provide confidence.

It even beat BFC - albeit a weakened one - in their previous encounter, a 2-0 victory earlier this month that helped Petr Kratky's men sneak into the playoffs.

But the last time BFC left Kanteerava disappointed after an ISL knockout match was the final against Chennaiyin FC in 2018. To protect this record can be motivation enough.

TOP OF THE CHARTS

Dhoni goes past Raina, becomes highest run-getter for Super Kings

AFP

M.S. Dhoni became the highest run-getter for Chennai Super Kings during the IPL match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Friday. The 43-year-old went past Suresh Raina during his unbeaten 30 in the home side's 50-run loss. Dhoni has 4699 runs from 236 matches compared to Raina's tally of 4687 (176 games).

HONEST OPINION

Not been able to read the Chepauk pitches for last two years: Fleming

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

We have not been able to read the wickets at Chepauk for the last couple of years. It is nothing new. We have been completely honest with you. We are trying to come to grips each day with what we get and we do not know what the nature of the pitch will be — Stephen Fleming, Chennai Super Kings head coach.

STICK TO PLAN

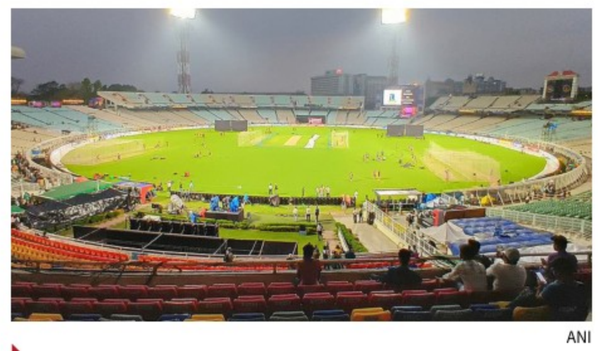
Stint as MI talent scout will not make a difference in clash: Parthiv

VIJAY SONEJI

Gujarat Titans assistant coach Parthiv Patel said his stint as a talent scout with Mumbai Indians wouldn't make a difference for his side in their clash on Saturday. "Every team has their plan and everyone knows how each other plays. For us, it is about executing our plans. If we execute 85-90% of it, we will get the results," said Parthiv.

RESCHEDULED

Knight Riders-Super Giants match at Eden Gardens put off to April 8



ANI

The match between KKR and LSG, scheduled at the Eden Gardens on April 6, has been postponed to April 8 (3.30 p.m.). The decision follows a request from the Kolkata police to the Cricket Association of Bengal regarding the deployment of personnel across the city owing to (Ram Navami) festivities.

Patidar leads from the front as RCB ends a 17-year wait

Salt, Padikkal and David chip in with cameos; Hazlewood scalps three as CSK loses the plot in the chase

Big moments: Patidar's aggressive fifty set up a big total for RCB while Dayal snuffed out CSK's hopes by yorking Rachin. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

IPL-18

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

It is not often the boisterous crowd at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium gets drowned out when Chennai Super Kings play. However, on Friday, chants of 'RCB, RCB' were heard loud through the evening as Royal Challengers Bengaluru ended its 17-year wait for success against CSK at Chepauk with a clinical 50-run win over the five-time champion.

Asked to bat first, the visitor posted a strong 196 for seven, riding on skipper Rajat Patidar's half-century (51, 32b, 4x4, 3x6) while Phil Salt and Devdutt Padikkal scored useful cameos.

It was always going to be a tricky chase on a surface where it was not easy to hit through the line whenever the bowlers took pace off their deliveries.

Super Kings' chase went off the rails as early as the second over when Josh Hazlewood removed Rahul Tripathi and Ruturaj Gaikwad, both batters caught on the pull.

The Aussie pacer and Bhuvneshwar Kumar were miserly in the PowerPlay as the host meandered to 30 for three. Rachin Ravindra tried his best and gave the home side something to cheer with a few hits to the fence.

However, he lacked support from the other end as the likes of Sam Curran and Shivam Dube struggled to force the pace against the spinners. Left-arm pacer Yash Dayal pretty much sealed the game for his side in the 13th over when he cleaned up Rachin with a perfect yorker.

Earlier, opener Salt gave the perfect launchpad for RCB, scoring a 16-ball 32.

Patidar started slowly and had his share of luck after he was dropped on 17 and 19 by Deepak Hooda and Tripathi, respectively, in successive overs.

He then made the home team pay for their fumbles, taking on Ravindra Jadeja. Tim David (22 n.o., 8b, 1x4, 3x6) ensured the Bengaluru side finished strongly, muscling a hat-trick of sixes off Curran in the final over, sending the crowd into silence. Super Kings never found their voice again.

Next assignment

CSK: March 30 vs RR Guwahati, 7.30 p.m.

RCB: April 2 vs GT Bengaluru, 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Phil Salt st. Dhoni b Noor 32 *(16b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Virat Kohli c Rachin b Noor 31 *(30b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Devdutt Padikkal c Ruturaj b Ashwin 27 *(14b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Rajat Patidar c Curran b Pathirana 51 *(32b, 4x4, 3x6)*, Liam Livingstone b Noor 10 *(9b, 1x6)*, Jitesh Sharma c Jadeja b Khaleel 12 *(6b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Tim David (not out) 22 *(8b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Krunal Pandya c Hooda b Pathirana 0 *(3b)*, Bhuvneshwar Kumar (not out) 0 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-3, w-8): 11; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 196.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-45 (Salt, 4.6 overs), 2-76 (Padikkal, 7.5), 3-117 (Kohli, 12.2), 4-145 (Livingstone, 15.3), 5-172 (Jitesh, 17.4), 6-176 (Patidar, 18.1), 7-177 (Krunal, 18.4).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING

Khaleel 4-0-28-1, Ashwin 2-0-22-1, Curran 3-0-34-0, Noor 4-0-36-3, Jadeja 3-0-37-0, Pathirana 4-0-36-2.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Rachin Ravindra b Dayal 41 *(31b, 5x4)*, Rahul Tripathi c Salt b Hazlewood 5 *(3b, 1x4)*, Ruturaj Gaikwad c sub (Bhandage) b Hazlewood 0 *(4b)*, Deepak Hooda c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 4 *(9b, 1x4)*, Sam Curran c Krunal b Livingstone 8 *(13b)*, Shivam Dube *(Impact Player for Pathirana)* b Dayal 19 *(15b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Ravindra Jadeja c Salt b Hazlewood 25 *(19b, 2x4, 1x6)*, R. Ashwin c Salt b Livingstone 11 *(8b, 1x4)*, M.S. Dhoni (not out) 30 *(16b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Noor Ahmad (not out) 0 *(2b)*; Extras (b-1, w-2): 3; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 146.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-8 (Tripathi, 1.2), 2-8 (Ruturaj, 1.6), 3-26 (Hooda, 4.4), 4-52 (Curran, 8.5), 5-75 (Rachin, 12.1), 6-80 (Dube, 12.5), 7-99 (Ashwin, 15.2), 8-130 (Jadeja, 18.4).

RCB BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 3-0-20-1, Hazlewood 4-0-21-3, Dayal 3-0-18-2, Livingstone 4-0-28-2, Suyash **(Impact Player for Padikkal)** 4-0-32-0, Krunal 2-0-26-0.

Toss: CSK; **PoM:** Patidar.
RCB won by 50 runs.

With Hardik back, MI looks to target under-fire Titans

Fireworks in store: Hardik is expected to slot in as the finisher for Mumbai Indians. VIJAY SONEJI

Pranay Rajiv
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Titans will look to preserve its spotless home record against Mumbai Indians as the two sides meet in an IPL 2025 match at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Saturday.

The Titans have had the better of Mumbai Indians in all three of their match-ups in Ahmedabad across the last two seasons.

Both teams come into the fixture after having stumbled in their season openers. While Mumbai lost to Chennai Super Kings in an away encounter, the Titans fell short in a high-scoring game against Punjab Kings at home.

From early sightings, it seems like Mumbai Indians has manufactured itself a problem of plenty in its batting department.

The five-time IPL champion has five elite top-order batters – Rohit Sharma, Ryan Rickelton, Will Jacks, Tilak Varma and Suryakumar Yadav – in its ranks, but is yet to find a way to maximise their abilities, as observed from the meek batting display in Chennai.

On Saturday, Mumbai Indians will also welcome back skipper Hardik Pandya, who missed out against Chennai Super Kings due to an over-rate match ban. Hardik, who had a successful stint as the Titans skipper, is expected to slot in as the finisher.

For Gujarat Titans, the concerns will be centered around its bowling attack. Newly recruited pacers Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada came a cropper against Punjab Kings, while the usually reliable Rashid Khan conceded 48 runs in his four overs.

Mumbai Indians will look to target the under-fire Titans bowling unit as it aims to end its winless run in Ahmedabad.

Today's match

GUJARAT TITANS vs. MUMBAI INDIANS

Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 5

GT 3 | MI 2

PREVIOUS MEETING

GT won by six runs, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

There's still a need to adapt: Jayawardene and Parthiv

Pranay Rajiv
AHMEDABAD

Just when you thought the Indian Premier League touched its batting zenith in 2024, the 2025 season has already started to push the boundaries.

In the opening seven games of the ongoing season, the overall run rate has been 10.32, the highest it has ever been in a campaign and nearly a run more than what it was in 2024 (9.56).

Amidst this wholesale adoption of break-neck batting, there still exists space for teams to be adaptable to conditions and opponents, believe Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene and Gujarat Titans assistant coach Parthiv Patel.

"We have to segregate the venues and the opposition. Each venue, each opposition throws us different challenges and that's something that we will focus on.

Step one

"We see what happens in those venues, those particular opponents, how they play. And once we get to that venue, once we see that opposition, that's when our plans come into play," said Jayawardene on the eve of his side's match against Gujarat Titans.

Parthiv, too, emphasised the need to assess conditions in T20s.

"When I started opening, our thinking was if we scored 45 for one, it would be a good PowerPlay. Then it went on to become 50, 55, 60. But, I think we still have to look at the conditions.

"If you are playing in Chennai a 150 score is [often] good enough. Ultimately, what kind of conditions we are playing in matters the most," opined Parthiv.

Shardul bowled outstandingly and set the tone for us, says Marsh

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Shardul Thakur, who had gone unsold at the IPL auction, was gearing up to turn out for Essex in the County games when Lucknow Super Giants approached him. The team was in need of a last minute tried-and-tested replacement for the injured Mohsin Khan.

Shardul answered the call and has slotted into the team seamlessly, taking six wickets in two games at an average of 8.83.

After his superb spell played a big role in restricting Sunrisers Hyderabad to a below-par total, which LSG chased down with 23 balls to spare, Mitchell Marsh lauded the 33-year-old.

Toast of his mates: Shardul removed the dangerous Abhishek and Kishan off consecutive deliveries to rock SRH early on. K.V.S. GIRI

"Shardul bowled outstandingly and set the tone for us, especially with Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head, the way they go, you're under pressure straight away. Shardul showed his experience against those guys and certainly towards the back end bowled really well," he said.

Another standout performer with the ball was the relatively unknown Prince Yadav. In just his second IPL game, he prevented the SRH batting juggernaut from going ballistic while getting the prized scalp of Head.

"Really proud of Prince. In his second IPL game and for him to bowl the way he did and to execute the way he did, it will hopefully give him a lot of confidence moving forward. You rely on your depth in this tournament, it's a long tournament and for guys like him to get an opportunity early and stand up for us was really impressive," he added.

Gambhir, Agarkar to discuss contracts with BCCI secretary

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

India men's head coach Gautam Gambhir and chairman of the national selection panel Ajit Agarkar are set to discuss the prolonged central contracts for the ongoing cycle with the BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia in Guwahati on Saturday.

On top on the agenda will be whether to retain Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli in the highest bracket of the contracts list.

Despite the duo having retired from T20Is and Rohit's future in Test cricket being far from certain, they are set to be retained in the top tier.

Shreyas set to get back

Shreyas Iyer, who along with Ishan Kishan was not considered for the previous contracts cycle for skipping domestic cricket, is set to be re-inducted into the list.

Shreyas was one of the architects of India's recent Champions Trophy success.

It will be interesting to see the bracket he will be slotted in considering that he is a certainty in only one of the three formats.

BCCI invites applications for spin-bowling coach

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has invited applications for the post of spin-bowling coach at its Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru. The post has been lying vacant since Sairaj Bahutule served out his contract last year.

Added responsibilities

Besides monitoring the top spinners who will be visiting the CoE, the coach is expected to design spin bowling programmes for men and women across age-groups in consultation with CoE chief V.V.S. Laxman.

The deadline for submitting applications via the BCCI website is April 10.

Bahutule served as the spin-bowling coach for three years, during which he was associated with the national women's team, under-19 men's

World Cup team and a short stint with the senior men's side as well.

The former India leg-spinner recently joined IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals as its spin-bowling coach.

INBRIEF

Djokovic eases past Korda, meets Dimitrov in semifinal

Novak Djokovic took his place in the last four of the Miami Open with an impressive 6-3, 7-6(4) win over American Sebastian Korda, becoming the oldest man to reach a Masters 1000 semifinal. The 37-year-old, looking for his seventh Miami Open title but first since 2016, will face Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov in the semifinals.

The results: Men (quarterfinals): Jakub Mensik bt Arthur Fils 7-6(5), 6-1; Taylor Fritz bt Matteo Berrettini 7-5, 6-7(7), 7-5; Novak Djokovic bt Sebastian Korda 6-3, 7-6(4).
Women (semifinals): Aryna Sabalenka bt Jasmine Paolini 6-2, 6-2; Jessica Pegula bt Alexandra Eala 7-6 (3), 5-7, 6-3.

Anirudh in Challenger doubles final in Spain

Anirudh Chandrasekar and David Hernandez of Spain defeated Matej Vocel and Szymon Walkow 6-3, 7-6(7) in the doubles semifinals of the €141,250 Challenger tennis in Girona on Friday.

Other results: $200,000 Challenger, Morelia (Mexico): Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Juan Ficovich (Arg) & Rodrigo Mendez (Mex) bt Sriram Balaji & Miguel Reyes-Varela (Mex) 6-3, 6-4; Marc-Andrea Huesler (Sui) & Stefano Napolitano (Ita) bt Nicolas Barrientos (Col) & Rithvik Bollipalli 6-4, 6-3.
€145,250 Challenger, Girona (Spain): Quarterfinals: Anirudh & David bt Inigo Cervantes & Daniel Rincon (Esp) 2-6, 6-4, [11-9]; **Pre-quarterfinals:** Gregoire Jacq (Fra) & Orlando Luz (Bra) bt Niki Poonacha & Sergio Gornes (Esp) 6-4, 7-6(3); Oriol Batalla (Esp) & Marco Trungelliti (Arg) bt Saketh Myneni & Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-2, 6-2; Anirudh & David bt Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 6-3, 6-4.
$40,000 ITF women, Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic): Pre-quarterfinals: Hanne Vandewinkel (Bel) bt Sahaja Yamalapalli 6-2, 6-2; **First round:** Sahaja bt Tara Malik (USA) 6-0, 6-2.
Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Ariana Arseneault (Can) & Madison Sieg (USA) bt Aoi Ito (Jpn) & Sahaja Yamalapalli 1-6, 6-1, [10-7].

LIVE TELECAST

Table tennis: Star Contender, Sony LIV, 11 a.m.
Golf: Indian Open, Eurosport (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m.

Correction: A headline in the issue dated March 27, 2025, read 'Nagal meets top seed Ajdukovic in the second round'. It should have been 'Nagal meets Darderi'. The error is regretted.

Gurindervir blazes to a new 100m NR

The 24-year-old stops the clock at 10.20s to better Hoblidhar's record of 10.23s set in 2023; double sprint delight for Nithya

Dazzling run: Gurindervir, centre, rewrote the mark established by Hoblidhar, left. K. MURALI KUMAR

INDIAN GP 1

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Gurindervir Singh broke the men's National 100m record with a blistering run in the Indian Grand Prix 1 at SAI (NSSC) here on Friday.

Reliance sprinter Gurindervir clocked a time of 10.20s, erasing the mark of Manikanta Hoblidhar (10.23s) set in 2023. In the neighbouring lane, Hoblidhar clocked 10.22s.

"I've had my mind set on breaking the National record for a while. But after joining the Reliance set up six months ago, my confidence has gone sky high," a delighted Gurindervir said.

"Earlier, when I was training in Jalandhar, the budget allotted for my diet was ₹160 per day. Now at Reliance, it is ₹2,000 per day. There has also been a huge difference in my training, availability of gym equipment, physio, dietician and psychologist. Now that I have all the support, good performances are bound to come," Gurindervir said.

With his showing, the 24-year-old made the cut for the Asian championships to be held in May. "My next goal is to win a medal at the Asian championships," Gurindervir said.

Nithya... grand double. K. MURALI KUMAR

It was a memorable day for Telangana sprinter Nithya Gandhe, who clinched a sprint double in the women's section and also made the cut for the Asian championships.

Nithya was happy to record a personal best in the 100m.

"It has been a long time since an Indian woman has qualified in sprint events. Of late, the craze for 100m in India has reduced. Everyone is focused on the 400m, long jump and javelin. So I am trying to bring sprints back into the limelight," Nithya said.

Five more athletes booked berths for the Asian championships – Krishan Kumar (men's 800m), Sarvesh Anil (men's high jump), Shashank Patil (men's javelin), Jyothi Yarraji (women's 100m hurdles) and Abhinaya Shetty (women's high jump).

The results (winners only):
Men: 100m: Gurindervir Singh (Reliance) 10.20s (NR, OR: Manikanta Hoblidhar, 10.23s, 2023); **200m:** Amlan Borgohain (Reliance) 20.83s; **800m:** Krishan Kumar (Har) 1:47.09s; **5,000m:** Gaurav Bhaskar (Mah) 14:35.29s; **110m hurdles:** Muhammed Lazan (JSW) 14.13s.
Pole vault: S. Kavinraja (TN) 5.00m; **High jump:** Sarvesh Anil (Mah) 2.23m; **Long jump:** M. Vishnu (TN) 7.73m; **Shot put:** Vishwa Ayyappan (TN) 16.40m; **Javelin:** Shashank Patil (Kar) 76.23m.
Women: 100m: Nithya Gandhe (TG) 11.41s; **200m:** Nithya Gandhe (TG) 23.36s; **800m:** Huidrom Bhumeshwory (Man) 2:06.49s; **5,000m:** Beby (UP) 16:39.95s; **100m hurdles:** Jyothi Yarraji (Reliance) 13.07s.
Pole vault: Baranica Elangovan (Reliance) 4.00m; **High jump:** Abhinaya Shetty (JSW) 1.83m; **Long jump:** Sandra Babu (JSW) 6.22m; **Javelin:** Ramyashree Jain (Kar) 50.41m.

Nakajima shares top spot with Chacarra

Kamesh Srinivasan
GURUGRAM

Defending champion Keita Nakajima emerged the joint leader with Eugenio Chacarra with four-under 140 at the end of two rounds in the $2.25 million Hero Indian Open golf championship on Friday.

After having been two-over in the opening round, Nakajima roared into contention with seven birdies in the first nine holes. He looked strong to stay ahead of Chacarra, who had two-under 70 on both days despite a double bogey on the 17th in the second round.

Reetika claims silver; bronze for Antim, Muskan

Sports Bureau

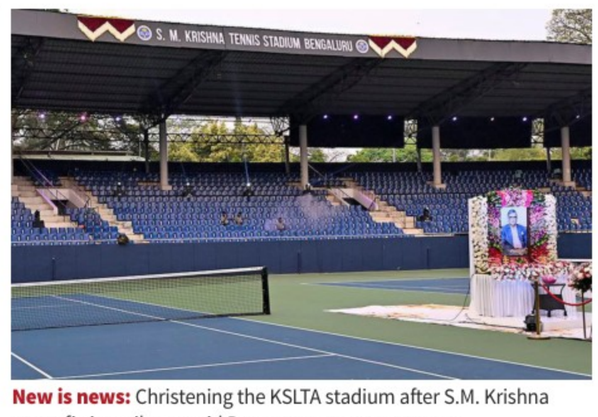
Antim Panghal secured a bronze in women's 53kg at Asian wrestling in Amman on Friday. Manisha also ensured a medal for India by reaching the 62kg final.

Antim beat Chinese Jin Zhang 10-6 before being outclassed 10-0 by Japan's Moe Kiyooka. In the bronze medal match, Antim trounced Chinese Taipei's Meng Hsuan Hsieh 10-0.

Manisha got past Kazakhstan's Tynys Dubek 11-0, Korea's Hanbit Lee 'by fall' and Kyrgyzstan's Kalmira Bilimbek 5-1 to set up a title clash with Ok Ju Kim of North Korea.

Late on Thursday, Reetika Hooda (76kg) claimed silver while Muskan (59kg) and Mansi Lather (68kg) took a bronze apiece.

In the summit clash against Kyrgyzstan's Aiperi Medet Kyzy, Reetika lost 7-6. Muskan beat Mongolia's Altjin Togtokh 4-0 and Mansi Lather beat Kazakh Irina Kazyulina 12-2.



New is news: Christening the KSLTA stadium after S.M. Krishna was a fitting tribute, said Bopanna. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

KSLTA stadium renamed after S.M. Krishna

TENNIS

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) Stadium inside the leafy and pristine Cubbon Park was on Friday named after former External Affairs Minister and Chief Minister of Karnataka S.M. Krishna, who passed away in December.

Krishna, a tennis enthusiast as well as the KSLTA president from 1999 to 2020, was instrumental in sprucing up the venue at the turn of the millennium and is credited to have widened the footprint of the game to different districts of Karnataka.

Former doubles World No.1 Rohan Bopanna recollected his excitement as a youngster when he watched the world's best players compete in the 2001 World Doubles Challenge Cup, among the first events under Krishna's stewardship. "To watch world-class tennis live was an inspiration," Bopanna said. "Having this stadium in his name is a fitting tribute. He took the game to all districts, and I as a player went to all these districts. I hope we have that in the future too."

Scholarships
On the occasion, scholarships worth ₹12 lakh were awarded to young upcoming players, and Krishna's wife Prema, while thanking the KSLTA for honouring her late husband, called on tennis lovers and industrialists to help further improve infrastructure and support for players.

Minister for Information Technology and Biotechnology Priyank Kharge, also the KSLTA senior vice-president, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka, also the KSLTA president, C.S. Sunder Raju, former KSLTA secretary and K. Govindaraj, MLC and president, Karnataka Olympic Association were present.

Barcelona cruises past Osasuna in LaLiga

Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA

Barcelona swept to a 3-0 victory over Osasuna to move three points clear at the top of the LaLiga on Thursday.

Ferran Torres, Dani Olmo and Robert Lewandowski were on target.

The result:
Barcelona 3 (Torres 11, Olmo 21-pen, Lewandowski 77) bt Osasuna 0.